



Chrissie Sieben
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Sent by email

Date: 25/04/2017

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement v2.0 FCR-7.9.1 for Joint demersal fisheries in the North Sea and adjacent waters

Dear Chrissie Sieben,

I write with reference to your submission on 04/04/2017 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow:

For practical reasons, MEC proposes that instead of sending the complete team to both site visits, only a subset attends each site visit. Each team member would have attended at least one site visit. No scoring meeting is planned to take place at either site visit.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to v2.0 FCR-7.9.1 state:

7.9.1 The team shall carry out the on-site assessment as planned. The team shall: ■

7.9.1.1 Conduct stakeholder interviews to make sure that the team is aware of any concerns or information that stakeholders may have: a. The team shall allow private interviews with the team for stakeholders who request one; b. The team shall use any information provided in private in conformity with the confidentiality requirements in 4.4; c. If stakeholders do not wish or are not able to be interviewed, the team shall inform them that they may send written information to the team

These are integral to ensuring all MSC accredited Conformity Assessment Bodies operate in a consistent and transparent manner. The MSC intends that these requirements be met across all fisheries and CoC certificate holders, except in exceptional, well-justified circumstances, as part of the MSC programme.

MSC notes the factors presented supporting your request, including:

It has proved virtually impossible to bring together a team of 10 for two separate site visit. MEC has therefore selected the team members for each site visit based on their respective areas of expertise and responsibilities in the assessment. The team leader, as well as at least one expert for each Principle would be present at each site visit. To ensure continuity between the site visit several assessors will be attending both.

Given the rationale provided, the MSC is willing to grant a variation to the CR in this case subject to the following conditions:

- CABs make clear that all members of the team are available to meet with stakeholders by virtual or other means, including at mutually convenient physical locations where it is shown that this would be necessary to effectively communicate key issues.

If you have any questions regarding this response, please do not hesitate to contact the relevant Fisheries Assessment Manager for this fishery.

Marine Stewardship Council
cc: Accreditation Services International