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Sandhya Chaudhury

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Norway

Sent by email

Date: 29 April 2013

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement CR 27.4.2 for the Faroe Island North East Arctic Cod and Faroe Island North East Arctic Haddock fisheries

Dear Sandhya

I write with reference to your submission on 29<sup>th</sup> April, 2013 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement CR 27.4.2, to alter the existing Units of Certification (UoC) to include an additional vessel, Sjúrdarberg, to the 2 vessels included in the original assessments.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to defining the UoC in 27.4.2, 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 in your letter supporting your request, including:

- That although the original assessments only covered 2 vessels, the addition of this vessel to the UoCs will not adversely affect any ecosystem aspects, covered under P2 in the MSC certification requirements, nor affect the total client quota for the target species.
- That P2 expert Dr. Lockwood, provides further rationale to this statement by confirming that the gear used by the new vessel, as well as its compliance with Barents Sea coastal-state fishery regulations and regulations for ETP species and marine protected areas, ensures that the addition of the Sjúrdarberg to the Faroe Islands' Barents Sea fleet, will not result in a measurable change in the environmental footprint of the fleet's fishing effort.
- The participation of the Sjúrdarberg in the Barents Sea fisheries represents one very small part of a much larger international fleet and will become part of, not additional to, the existing Faroese fleet's effort and will not influence the long-term stability or integrity of the Barents Sea ecosystem.

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

- That all stakeholders are notified of the change to both UoCs, both actively via emails from DNV, as well as through a stakeholder announcement made available for comment on the MSC website for a period of 14 days.
- That any stakeholder comments received, are reviewed and responded to by DNV and a finalized notice is made available to stakeholders, as well as included on the MSC website.

If you have any questions regarding this response, please do not hesitate to contact Robert Lefébure, the Fisheries Assessment Manager for this fishery either by email, [Robert.lefebure@msc.org](mailto:Robert.lefebure@msc.org) or phone +44 (0)20 7246 8935.

Best regards,



Dan Hoggarth

Fisheries Oversight director

Marine Stewardship Council