



Stefan Midteide
Det Norske Veritas Certification AS (DNV)
Veritasveien 1
Høvik
Norway
1363

Sent by email

Date: 11/01/2017

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement v2.0 FCR-PF2.1.1.4 for Norway sandeel, pout and north sea sprat

Dear Stefan Midteide,

I write with reference to your submission on 10/01/2017 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow:

Assessment team requests a variation from v2.0 FCR-PF2.1.1.4. The possible use of RBF announced less than 30 days before announced site visit. On-site visit will take place January 31st and February 1st.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to v2.0 FCR-PF2.1.1.4 state:

PF2.1 Announcing the RBF

PF2.1.1 If the team determines that the RBF is to be used, the team shall:

PF2.1.1.1 Describe and justify the use of the RBF using the form "Use of the RBF in a fishery assessment form".

PF2.1.1.2 Send the form to the MSC for publication on its website.

PF2.1.1.3 Using the form, notify stakeholders of the proposal to use the RBF.

PF2.1.1.4 Allow at least 30 days for comment

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:

- During the initial information gathering and audit preparation phase for Norway sandeel, pout and north sea sprat fishery and harmonisation process with overlapping fisheries (DFPO and DPPO North Sea, Skagerrak and Kattegat sandeel, sprat and Norway pout), the assessment team became aware of the possible need to use the RBF for scoring of PI 1.1.1, PI 2.1.1 and PI 2.2.1.
- The possible need of RBF become known after the on-site activities have been scheduled, travels were booked and meetings with all relevant and interested stakeholders have been confirmed.
- There is currently no possibility to reschedule the on-site stakeholder consultancy without substantial financial losses to the project and delay in the assessment activities with at least 2 months due to the availability of stakeholders.
- Assessment team propose the following activities:
 1. Keep the current dates of the stakeholder consultancy (January 31st and February 1st)
 2. Re-organise the stakeholder consultancy to accommodate the RBF session. This is already done and all stakeholders who have a possibility to contribute to the RBF session are invited and agreed to attend.
 3. In the announcement of intent to use the RBF, the stakeholders would be informed that the RBF session would be conducted during January 31st and February 1st, but given the entire period of 30 days to submit their comments. If additional comments are received after the RBF session is already conducted but within 30 days consultation period, those comments would be addressed accordingly and the need for the additional RBF



session would be evaluated. Thus, the assessment team guarantees that the rights of stakeholders to provide their input on the use of the RBF will not be undermined.

- To the knowledge of the assessment team, there are no other stakeholders who could have an input on use of the RBF, who are not already invited and are expected to participate in the scheduled RBF session.

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

- The assessment team follows activities proposed above to ensure adequate stakeholder participation in the RBF process.

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