

Marine Stewardship Council - Variation Request Form V1.3

Date submitted to MSC	16/04/13
Conformity Assessment Body	Food Certification International Ltd.
Fishery Name/CoC Certificate Number	DFPO Denmark North Sea & Skagerrak Saithe F-FCI-0010
Lead Auditor/Programme Manager	Antonio Hervás / Melissa McFadden
Scheme requirement(s) to vary from	27.22.3.1
Is this variation sought in order to undertake an expedited P1 assessment (CR annex CL)?	No

1. Proposed variation

To move the harmonised surveillance date for all DFPO fisheries from May to late June/early July.

2. Rationale/Justification

The fishery client, Danske Fiskeres PO (DFPO), currently has five MSC certified fisheries. The earliest certification date for these five fisheries is in February, with the latest falling in August. This fishery was certified on the 22nd of February 2011. As such a variation request will be required to move the annual surveillance date for this fishery from February to June/July.

To conduct all DFPO surveillance audits separately would be costly and impractical - the assessment teams are broadly similar across all five, with the same stakeholders involved in each. As such, to improve efficiency, limit stakeholder fatigue and ensure an effective and transparent stakeholder consultation process it is proposed that a single annual site visit should be held for all of the DFPO's certified fisheries by default. Please note that no variation requests will be submitted to this end for those fisheries whose certification anniversary falls after June/July, as this will place them within normally acceptable timeframes.

The requirements inherent in each fishery will be examined individually to ensure that appropriate assessors are present to scrutinise the key factors and pivotal technical points in every instance. In addition, an FCI representative will accompany the surveillance teams to ensure that all surveillance audits are conducted completely and appropriately.

June/July has been selected as the most appropriate time as it allows for updated ICES advice - released in May/June each year - to be considered and incorporated in the annual audit for these fisheries, ensuring a harmonised, more robust surveillance programme across all five fisheries and incorporating the most relevant and up to date scientific advice available.

If at any point it becomes apparent that a standalone site visit is required for any one of the five

DFPO fisheries, a dedicated site visit will be carried out for the fishery in question.

3. Implications for assessment (required for fisheries assessment variations only)

There will be no detrimental impact on the on-going surveillance programme or on timelines. Impact on all interested stakeholders will be minimised by reducing time required (and potentially travel costs) for them to effectively participate in the surveillance programme for these multiple fisheries. Time and cost will also be minimised for the fishery client, without sacrificing the integrity of the surveillance programme itself.

4. Have the stakeholders of this fishery assessment been informed of this request? (required for fisheries assessment variations only)

No

5. Confidential Information

*Please include any information that cannot be published here.
This may include information covered by provisions of CR 24.4.*

[Please note, this section is OPTIONAL and is designed to include supplementary information to the rationale provided above. As this information will not be published, the rationale for the variation that is published should make sense without the inclusion of this section. For example, if the rationale section included a statement that the variation to continue all the steps of the assessment is needed because the client has instructed the CAB not to proceed, this section could add that the reason for this is that the client has insufficient funds to continue with the assessment due to unforeseen costs. It would therefore be impossible for the CAB to complete the assessment.]

EXPEDITED PRINCIPLE 1 ASSESSMENT FOR MAIN RETAINED PRINCIPLE 2 STOCKS

6. Main retained Principle 2 stock(s) for which an expedited Principle 1 assessment is sought

Please list the stocks for which an expedited P1 assessment is sought. These must be stocks assessed in the existing certified fishery as ‘main retained species’

7. Evaluation of potential impact on Principle 2

If a P2 species is certified under P1, there could be potential impacts to bycatch, habitat, or ecosystem scoring, depending on any altered persecution of the fishery that may arise. Please provide a discussion of this potential for the specific fishery in question here.

8. Evaluation of potential impact on Principle 3

If a P2 species is certified under P1, there could be potential impacts to the scoring of the fishery-specific management system, depending on how specific the initial evaluation of these impacts was to the initial Principle 1 stock(s). Please provide a discussion of this potential for the specific fishery in question here.

9. Based on the potential impacts identified in 8 and 9, please list any additions to the expedited assessment requirements given in Annex CL that will be necessary to ensure the fishery is accurately assessed against Principles 1, 2, and 3 with the proposed additional P1 stocks.

These could include rescoring of some P2 and/or P3 performance indicators, additional team member or peer reviewer involvement, etc.