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MRAG Americas, Inc.

Schleswig-Holstein blue shell mussel

MSC Variation Request

Table 1 – Variation request

1	Date submitted to the MSC
	- Please note the MSC will usually respond within 14 days, but for complex variations, longer may be necessary. The MSC will keep you informed if it will take longer than 14 days.
	03 March 2022
2	CAB
	MRAG Americas, Inc.
3	Fishery name and certificate number
	Schleswig-Holstein blue shell mussel, MSC-F-31272
4	Lead auditor or program manager
	; Amanda Stern-Piriot, TL
5	Request prepared by
	Michealene Corlett
6	Scheme requirement(s) for which variation requested
	GCR 2.4.1:7.5.6 <i>The CAB shall issue fishery certificates with a maximum validity period of 5 years from the issue date.</i>
7	How many times has a variation for this requirement been accepted for the same assessment of the same fishery?

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Table 2 – Variation justification

1	Proposed variation	
	The current certificate expiration date is 23 April 2022. We propose to extend the certificate expiration date 30 days to 23 May 2022.	
2	Additional time requested	
	Original deadline date	23 April 2022
	Modified deadline date requested	23 May 2022
	Length of additional time requested	30 days
3	Justification	
	Due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, there were some delays in information gathering post-site visit writing and scoring activities. The Public Comment Draft Report will be published March 2022. The additional amount of time requested would allow for the process requirements to be fulfilled while keeping the fishery certified.	
4	Implications for assessment	
	By extending the certificate expiration date, the fishery will be allowed to continue to sell their product as MSC certified. We note that if the certificate is allowed to lapse before the current assessment is completed, product will still be eligible but there will be a short period of time where it would once again be UMAF product, which would cause issues in the supply chain. This would be avoided by this short certificate extension. We note that the season for market mussels begins in earnest in the summer, so the new certificate, if successful, will be in place before a large volume of new product enters the supply chain.	
5	Mitigation of the implications for assessment	
	There are no implications for the assessment, except that there will be slightly more time to complete it without a certification lapse.	
6	How many conditions does the fishery have and will their progress be affected (positive or negative)?	
	There are no open conditions on this fishery, though the reassessment assigns one new one. A slight certificate extension has no bearing on this situation,	
7	What is the status of the current assessment or audit?	
	The Public Comment Draft Report will be published March 2022.	
8	Further comments	
9	If applicable, additional information added after the MSC's request	
	Not applicable	