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Gunnar Á Gunnarsson
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Sent by email

Date: 28 April 2014

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement CR 27.4.3

Dear Gunnar Á Gunnarsson,

I write with reference to your submission on 22 April 2014 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement to allow a change to the unit of certification (UoC) for the ISF Icelandic cod fishery.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to UoC changes 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:

- The Public Certification Report for the ISF Icelandic cod fishery lists five harvesting methods within the UoC (i.e., demersal otter trawl, Danish seine, long line, hand line, and gill net), which is reflected in the fishery's certificate.
- A sixth harvesting method – pelagic trawl – was added during the initial assessment and was considered during the subsequent first surveillance audit, as demonstrated in the scoring tables and scoring results in relevant assessment reports.
- The pelagic gear has already been evaluated and passed without condition against all the three MSC Principles & Criteria (scoring of all above 90).
- The change has implications for the formal scope of the fishery but does not affect the fishery's conformity with MSC standards.
- Since it appears that initial inclusion of pelagic trawl was not subject to stakeholder consultation, it is proposed that this gear type and its scores will be reviewed separately by the assessment team and discussed during consultation meetings with the client and stakeholders at the upcoming (second) on-site surveillance audit. The team will subsequently report on those

consultations and make the appropriate recommendation regarding potential amendment of the officially registered scope of the fishery's certificate.

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

- A separate special report specific to the pelagic trawl gear will be provided to the MSC for posting, which summarises any changes made following the surveillance audit, and stakeholders will be allowed 30 days to comment (i.e., the PCDR process). Any stakeholder comments will be addressed by the CAB in a revised report submitted to MSC for posting, after which the pelagic trawl gear may be added to the certificate (depending on the outcome). (Note: The full reporting template is not required. The reports need only need to speak to the specifics of the pelagic trawl and the changes made based on the consultation.)

If you have any questions regarding this response, please do not hesitate to contact Jodi Bostrom the Fisheries Assessment Manager for this fishery either by email (jodi.bostrom@msc.org) or phone (+44 (0)20 7246 8934).

Best regards,



Dan Hoggarth
Fisheries Oversight director
Marine Stewardship Council

cc: ASI