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Sent by email

Date: 02/08/2016

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement v1.3 CR-7.5.9 for Germany Eastern Baltic cod

Dear Bob Trumble,

I write with reference to your submission on 29/07/2016 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow:

The existing fishery certificate will remain valid until August 2, 2017, one year past the existing expiration of August 3, 2016. The fishery would immediately start re-assessment, and include a scope extension to add the Danish and Swedish Eastern Baltic cod fisheries.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to v1.3 CR-7.5.9 state:

The CAB shall issue fisheries certificates with a maximum validity period of five years from the issue date

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:

The German fishery is currently certified but under suspension. Under the client action plan we expect that the progress made in the next year will be sufficient to lift the suspension. An agreed and adopted EU management plan for the Baltic now exists, and has a provision for inserting ICES reference points when approved. It is expected that reference points will be set in the ICES end-of-May advice in 2017, which will determine how the quota will be set. A project of tagging cod is well underway as planned with re-captures anticipated in the winter fishery. Unless the ICES assessment and advice shows the stock is at low levels or ICES does not set reference points, we expect the fishery to increase P1 scores sufficiently to reach >80 average.

Therefore, the variation period is sufficient to set up the re-assessment and evaluate ICES-EU actions relative to P1 for a decision whether the fisheries have reached an average P1 score >80, and recognizes progress made to date with additional progress to come.

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

- The CAB can confirm that it is not aware at this time of any additional factors (other than those related to the current suspension) that could result in the fishery no longer being in compliance with the MSC Fisheries Standard.
- The re-certification process is completed by August 2, 2017.
- Stakeholders are informed.



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