



Kat Collinson
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Sent by email

Date: 20/11/2018

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement v2.1 GCR-7.5.6 for Germany Lower Saxony mussel dredge and mussel culture

Dear Kat Collinson,

I write with reference to your submission on 20/11/2018 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow:

CU Pesca are requesting a fourteen-day extension to the certificate to allow the reassessment process to be completed. The current certificate is set to expire on 27th November 2018.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to v2.1 GCR-7.5.6 state:

The CAB shall issue fisheries certificates with a maximum validity period of 5 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:

- Further significant stakeholder comment was received during the recertification process, specifically following the publication of the PCDR.
- Given the remaining time left on the current certificate, there was not sufficient time to attend to these comments sufficiently and publish the Final Report within the allotted time remaining.
- The fishery remains consistent with the MSC Fisheries Standard.
- No new conditions were raised during the reassessment.
- The need for the extension is administrative in order to complete the Final Report objection stage.
- The certificate has only been extended by 30 days prior to this request, and the following fourteen days is for the completion of the process. Specifically, in the event of an objection, the extension requested is planned to be used to cover the time it would take an independent adjudicator (AI) to either uphold or dismiss an objection. If no objection is filed, the certificate can be re-issued earlier.
- Without the granting of the extension, there will be a lapse to the fishery's certification of seven days (three working days between the expiry and end of the objections period, followed by the weekend). If an objection is filed, the lapse would be longer due to the time period in which IA will make a decision on the objection. This therefore has implications on the subsequent certified supply chain.

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 factor (related to either fishery status, or performance against conditions) that could result in the fishery no longer being in compliance with the MSC Fisheries Standard.
- Stakeholders are informed.
- ECert is updated to reflect changes, including providing a certificate covering the period from the end of the



current certificate to the date accepted in the variation response.

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