

## **Control Union Pesca Ltd.**

### **Joint demersal fisheries in the North Sea and adjacent waters**

### **MSC Variation Request**

Control Union Pesca Ltd.

56 High Street, Lymington, Hampshire,  
SO41 9AH, United Kingdom

Tel: 01590 613007 Fax: 01590 671573

Email: [infopesca@controlunion.com](mailto:infopesca@controlunion.com)

Website: [cupesca.com](http://cupesca.com)

# 1 Marine Stewardship Council variation request

Table 1 – Variation request

|          |  |
|----------|--|
| <b>1</b> | <b>Date submitted to MSC</b>   |
|          | 18 <sup>th</sup> October 2019  |
| <b>2</b> | <b>CAB</b>   |
|          | Control Union Pesca Ltd.   |
| <b>3</b> | <b>Fishery name and certificate number or CoC certificate number</b>   |
|          | Joint demersal fisheries in the North Sea and adjacent waters  |
| <b>4</b> | <b>Lead auditor or programme manager</b>   |
|          | Chrissie Sieben  |
| <b>5</b> | <b>Request prepared by</b>   |
|          | Toru Tsuzaki   |
| <b>6</b> | <b>Scheme requirement for which variation requested</b>  |
|          | GCR 7.4.3: If a fishery certificate is suspended, the CAB shall set the effective date for the fishery certificate suspension 30 days after the decision to suspend. |
| <b>7</b> | <b>How many times has a variation for this requirement been accepted for the same assessment of the same fishery?</b>  |
|          | None   |

**Table 2 – Variation justification**

|          |  |     |
|----------|--|-----|
| <b>1</b> | <b>Proposed variation</b>  |     |
|          | The fishery certificate suspension will be the same day as the decision to suspend.  |     |
| <b>2</b> | <b>Additional time requested</b>   |     |
|          | <b>Original deadline date</b>  | N/A |
|          | <b>Modified deadline date requested</b>  | N/A |
|          | <b>Length of additional time requested</b>   | N/A |
| <b>3</b> | <b>Justification</b>   |     |
|          | <p>The Joint demersal fisheries in the North Sea and adjacent waters (JDF) includes the following Principle 1 stocks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cod (<i>Gadus morhua</i>) in Subarea 4, Division 7.d and Subdivision 3.a.20 (North Sea, eastern English Channel, Skagerrak) and;</li> <li>- Whiting (<i>Merlangius merlangus</i>) in Subarea 4 and Division 7.d (North Sea and eastern English Channel).</li> </ul> <p>The assessment reached the Final Report stage on the 16<sup>th</sup> April 2019 with a Notice of Objection received on the 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2019. The objection process is still ongoing.</p> <p>Following the publication of ICES advice for both stocks on the 28<sup>th</sup> June 2019 and harmonisation activities with other certified fisheries, both stocks are currently no longer in conformity with Principle 1 Performance Indicators. As a result, all JDF UoAs that include both these stocks will be self-suspended simultaneously with the publication of the JDF Public Certification Report and certificate, pending the successful outcome of the assessment.</p> <p>A number of other fisheries certified for North Sea cod and whiting have already been suspended, it is of importance that there is no delay whereby North Sea cod and whiting catch stemming from the JDF can be sold as MSC certified. Therefore, it is proposed that the 30 day notice period for suspension is disregarded and will take immediate effect from the date of publication of the JDF Public Certification Report and certificate.</p> |     |
| <b>4</b> | <b>If a fishery assessment, implications for assessment</b>  |     |
|          | <p>Given that this assessment is subject to an objection, there is opportunity for stakeholders to be informed directly regarding the self-suspension, should this Variation Request be accepted.</p> <p>Acceptance of the variation request will result in suspension of the North Sea cod and whiting UoAs from this fishery on the same date as certification. This will mean that no North Sea cod and whiting caught by the client group will be eligible for sale as MSC certified product.</p>  |     |
| <b>5</b> | <b>If a fishery assessment, mitigation of the implication for assessment</b>   |     |
|          | As mentioned above, stakeholders will be directly notified if the UoAs are suspended.  |     |
| <b>6</b> | <b>If a fishery assessment, how many conditions does the fishery have and will their progress be affected (positive or negative)?</b>  |     |

|          |   |
|----------|---|
|          | NA. The fishery is currently in assessment. The assessment is currently in objection and awaiting decision from the IA on remanded items. |
| <b>7</b> | <b>What is the status of the current assessment?</b>  |
|          | The fishery is currently in assessment. The assessment is currently in objection and awaiting decision from the IA on remanded items.     |
| <b>8</b> | <b>Further comments</b>   |
|          | NA  |
| <b>9</b> | <b>If applicable, additional information added after MSC's request</b>  |
|          | NA  |