

# Marine Stewardship Council - Variation Request

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Date submitted to MSC  | 24 <sup>th</sup> April 2015   |
| Name of CAB  | ME Certification Ltd (MEC)  |
| Fishery Name/CoC Certificate Number  | Euronor and Compagnie des Peches St Malo cod and haddock (MEP-F-008/9)  |
| Lead Auditor/Programme Manager   | Jo Gascoigne/Chrissie Sieben (Contact: Vicki Gravestock)  |
| Scheme requirement(s) for which variation requested                        | 7.23.2 Surveillance audits shall take place according to the default surveillance level described in Table 5, unless the team decides on a reduced surveillance programme (see section 7.23.4). |
| Is this variation sought in order to fulfil IPI requirements (FCR 7.4.14)? | No  |

|   |
|---|
| <b>1. Proposed variation</b>  |
| <i>MEC proposes to conduct the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual surveillance audit of the Euronor and Compagnie des Peches St Malo cod and haddock fishery remotely rather than on-site (as per the normal surveillance level surveillance plan).</i>  |
| <b>2. Rationale/Justification</b>   |
| <p><i>The fishery was certified with one condition which was classified as 'ahead of target' during the year 1 surveillance audit and at the year 2 surveillance audit, a review of information found nothing to suggest there was any impact on vulnerable habitats. It was therefore concluded at the year 2 surveillance, that progress for closing the condition and action plan were on target, but that the condition would remain open and be reviewed at the next surveillance audit. Based on the argument that the fishery is low risk and that all information for the year 3 surveillance, including the assessment of the open condition, can be provided remotely, MEC proposes that a remote audit is completed instead of an on-site audit.</i></p> <p><i>The upcoming surveillance audit will be completed procedurally under v2.0 of the Fisheries Certification Requirements. At the last audit, the surveillance level was concluded to be 'normal' under v1.3 CRs. Whilst this corresponds with the default surveillance level under v2.0, where four on-site surveillance audits are required, the v2.0 FCRs also allow the team to determine whether the fishery is eligible for a reduction of surveillance programme, which will be considered as part of the year 3 surveillance audit.</i></p> <p><i>A telephone or skype conference will be held between the client group representatives and the team leader, Dr Jo. Gascoigne. The information collected will be considered and reported on in the year 3 surveillance report by the entire team. Stakeholders will be given the opportunity to meet the assessment team in person if required or to arrange a meeting over telephone or skype.</i></p> |
| <b>3. Implications for assessment (required for fisheries assessment variations only)</b>   |
| <i>No implications for assessment are foreseen. MEC is confident that in undertaking a remote audit, the integrity of the MSC principles and criteria will be maintained. To ensure this and to reduce stakeholder concern, the proposed team for this surveillance audit will include Dr Jo Gascoigne, who is extremely familiar with this fishery, having completed the initial assessment and year 2 surveillance for this fishery as the team leader.</i>   |

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>4. Have the stakeholders of this fishery assessment been informed of this request? (required for fisheries assessment variations only)</b> | No, will be notified in the fishery announcement for this fishery. |
| <b>5. Further Comments</b>  |  |
| <i>None.</i>  |  |