



Amanda Stern-Pirlot
MRAG Americas, Inc (MRAG)
10051 5th Street, Suit 105
St Petersburg
United States
33702

Sent by email

Date: 19/03/2020

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement v2.1 FCP - 7.30.8.b for DFPO Limfjord mussel and cockle fishery

Dear Amanda Stern-Pirlot,

I write with reference to your submission on 09/03/2020 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow:

To vary from the requirement by carrying out a reduced reassessment for the Limfjord mussel and cockle fishery, which will be part of a newly combined fishery (Limfjord mussels and cockles, Danish Inner Waters mussels, and Limfjord oyster dredge) even though the cockle UoA has an open condition on PI 3.2.4 following its third surveillance audit. Both other fisheries have no open conditions, and all other requirements for a reduced re-assessment are met.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to v2.1 FCP - 7.30.8.b state:

A fishery is eligible for reduced reassessment if:

- a. The fishery was covered under the previous certification or scope extension.
- b. The fishery had no conditions remaining after the 3rd surveillance audit.
- c. The CAB confirms that all standard-related stakeholder input has been addressed by the 3rd surveillance audit

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:

- It is expected that this single condition can be closed during the 4th audit.
- The specific research plan PI 3.2.4 that was in CR v1.3 was removed from FCR v2.0.
- For the sake of efficiency, this fishery is being combined with two other Danish bivalve fisheries into a single re-assessment. Both other fisheries have no open conditions, and all other requirements for a reduced re-assessment are met.

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

- The remaining open condition is closed at the upcoming surveillance audit.

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: Assurance Services International