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MSC Variation Request 20190410

Marine Stewardship Council assessments
25 July 2019

Lloyd's Register

Northern Ireland Pelagic Sustainability Group (NIPSG) Irish Sea herring

MSC Variation Request

1 Marine Stewardship Council variation request

Table 1 – Variation request

1	Date submitted to MSC
	15 th May 2019
2	CAB
	Lloyd's Register
3	Fishery name and certificate number or CoC certificate number
	Northern Ireland Pelagic Sustainability Group (NIPSG) Irish Sea herring (F-ACO-0081)
4	Lead auditor or program manager
	Paul Knapman/Louise Allan
5	Request prepared by
	Louise Allan/Paul Knapman
6	Scheme requirement(s) for which variation requested
	GCR V2.3 7.5.6 The CAB shall issue fishery certificates with a maximum validity period of 5 years from the issue date.
7	How many times has a variation for this requirement been accepted for the same assessment of the same fishery?
	None

Table 2 – Variation justification

1	Proposed variation
	The certificate for the NIPSG Irish Sea herring fishery will be extended from 31 st July 2019 to 31 st January 2020, representing an extension of 6 months.
2	Additional time requested
	Original deadline date 31 st July 2019
	Modified deadline date requested 31 st January 2020
	Length of additional time requested 6 months
3	Justification
	<p>The re-assessment process for this fishery began in December 2018, only 7 months prior to the expiry date of the current certificate. The client is involved in high level meetings with respect to the withdrawal of the UK from the EU and, as such, was unavailable for the site visit, and was delayed in preparing information for the assessment. This resulted in delays to the site visit and start of the re-assessment.</p> <p>Due to the delays in starting the re-assessment process it will not be concluded before the current certificate expiry date. Further delays have been experienced in producing the first version of the report. As stated above, due to the client's time being constricted by important non-MSC matters, follow-up post-site visit information was delayed in getting to the team. There were also delays in the actions needed to help close out the remaining conditions which are required to be closed before the assessment process can continue. These actions were influenced by the outstanding decision on Brexit. Scoring processes were also impacted with these uncertainties, which delayed the process further.</p> <p>Withdrawal of the the UK from the EU has taken longer than expected and is out of the CAB's and client's control. Due to the ever changing timeline of this event it has not been possible to factor this into assessment planning.</p> <p>This certificate extension will allow the rest of process to continue without a potential lapse in certification if the fishery is re-certified.</p>
4	If a fishery assessment, implications for assessment
	No implications. Stakeholders will be allowed input at the relevant opportunities throughout the process as per MSC Requirements.
5	If a fishery assessment, mitigation of the implication for assessment
	None – the remaing steps allow stakeholders to provide input to the team's scoring.
6	If a fishery assessment, how many conditions does the fishery have and will their progress be affected (positive or negative)?
	There are currently two open conditions and their progress will not be affected – they will be closed in the Peer Review Draft Report.
7	What is the status of the current assessment?
	<p>Site visit occurred at the end of January and the Client Draft Report has been completed</p> <p>Updated timeline:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Client Draft Report: 20th July 2019 • Peer Review Draft Report: 20th August 2019

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Public Comment Draft Report: 27th September 2019• Final Report: 30th October 2019• Public Certification Report: 21st November 2019
8	If applicable, additional information added after MSC's request