

Control Union (UK) Limited

Joint demersal fisheries in the North Sea and adjacent waters

MSC Variation Request

Control Union (UK) Limited

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1 Marine Stewardship Council variation request

Table 1 – Variation request

1	Date submitted to MSC
	Tuesday, 19 January 2021
2	CAB
	Control Union (UK) Limited
3	Fishery name and certificate number
	<p>Joint demersal fisheries in the North Sea and adjacent waters (JDF)</p> <p>MSC-F-31443 (MSC-F-31443)</p> <p>MSC-F-31444 (MSC-F-31444)</p> <p>MSC-F-31446 (MSC-F-31446)</p> <p>MSC-F-31445 (MSC-F-31445)</p>
4	Lead auditor or program manager
	Hugh Jones
5	Request prepared by
	Hugh Jones
6	Scheme requirement(s) for which variation requested
	<p>7.28.23 The CAB shall upload the Surveillance Report to the MSC database within 60 days of completing the audit for publication on the MSC website.</p> <p>7.28.23.1 If the client has revised the Client Action Plan following surveillance, the CAB shall upload the Surveillance Report to the MSC database within 90 days of completing the audit for publication on the MSC website.</p>
7	How many times has a variation for this requirement been accepted for the same assessment of the same fishery?
	0

Table 2 – Variation justification

1	Proposed variation	
	CU UK propose that 7.28.23 is modified to 120 days for all surveillance audits of this fishery certificate.	
2	Additional time requested	
	Original deadline date	60 days post audit
	Modified deadline date requested	120 days post audit
	Length of additional time requested	60 days
3	Justification	
	<p>The Joint demersal fisheries in the North Sea and adjacent waters fishery encompasses 17 stocks (Principle 1 target stocks), four fishing areas, four client groups and multiple gear types. Given the scale of the assessment, the number of conditions, the large number of stakeholders and the splitting of the reporting template into four volumes a time frame of 60 days from audit completion to report publication would not be achievable.</p> <p>To understand the scale of the audit requirements CU provide the following details:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are 17 stocks under Principle 1 which require updates, a large suite of these are also due for harmonisation discussions between multiple CABs. • There are 14 conditions on Principle 1 which require auditing on progress and harmonisation. • Within Principle 2 there are 20 main Primary, 11 main Secondary and >20 ETP species all requiring updates on information, stock assessment review and anagement measures being reviewed. • There are >30 P2 conditions grouped by gear types and clients all of which require milestone progress checks. • Principle 3 there is ongoing Brexit considerations and there is the potential for redrafting of a large number of scoring issues resulting from this. • Principle 3 there is a single condition on the landing obligations from four client groups. • Stakeholder engagement in the Initial assessment was extensive and sufficient time is need to accommodate all stakeholders engagements. 	
4	Implications for assessment	
	Delaying the report by 60 days does not significantly impact the assessment nor the timeline, rather it provides time for a more thorough evaluation of the fishery against the MSC standard.	
5	Mitigation of the implication for assessment	
	Stakeholders will be made aware of this VR (if accepted) in the notification for the audit.	
6	How many conditions does the fishery have and will their progress be affected (positive or negative)?	
	No affect on conditions. Please see PCR for full list of conditions.	
7	What is the status of the current assessment?	

	Certifier : Control Union (UK) Limited Certified status : Certified Certified since : 31 Oct 2019 Certificate expires : 30 Apr 2025
8	Further comments
	None
9	If applicable, additional information added after MSC's request