



Marine House  
1 Snow Hill  
London  
EC1A 2DH  
United Kingdom  
Tel: +44 (0)207 246 9800  
Fax: +44 (0)207 246 9801

Anna Kiseleva

Lead Auditor

DNV Business Assurance

Veritasveien 1, Høvik 1363

Norway

Sent by email

Date: 14 October 2013

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement CR 27.22.13 for the Norwegian Spring spawning herring fishery

Dear Anna

I write with reference to your submission on 11<sup>th</sup> October, 2013 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR 27.22.13) to delay the submission of the 4<sup>th</sup> surveillance report by 31 days, from the current deadline of the 15<sup>th</sup> of October.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to the submission of surveillance reports in 27.22.13 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 in your letter supporting your request, including:

- That publication of ICES advice was expected in September 2013, but was delayed until 3rd of October 2013. The new advice indicates that fishing mortality for AS Herring is likely to be higher than agreed in the management plan
- That in order to draw a conclusion on whether the Norwegian spring spawning herring fishery still meets the MSC Principles and Criteria for sustainable fishing, the following steps has to be undertaken:
  - A meeting needs to be held with the affected CABs for all Atlanto Scandian Herring fisheries involved in the MSC programme, to ensure that scores across Principle 1 and Principle 3 are reviewed and harmonized.
  - The surveillance report has to be updated according to harmonisation results
- The time period 3rd October – 15th October is not sufficient enough to complete all steps above and therefore a variation to submit the annual surveillance report for the Norwegian spring spawning herring fishery on 15th of November 2013 instead, is requested.

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

- That all stakeholders are notified that the surveillance report will be delayed

If you have any questions regarding this response, please do not hesitate to contact Robert Lefébure, the Fisheries Assessment Manager for this fishery either by email, [Robert.lefebure@msc.org](mailto:Robert.lefebure@msc.org) or phone +44 (0)20 7246 8935.

Best regards,



Dan Hoggarth

Fisheries Oversight director

Marine Stewardship Council