

Control Union (UK) Limited

SFSAG Northern Demersal Stocks

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
	12 th January 2021
2	CAB
	Control Union (UK) Limited
3	Fishery name and certificate number
	SFSAG Northern Demersal Stocks
4	Lead auditor or program manager
	C.M. Seip-Markensteijn
5	Request prepared by
	Hugh Jones
6	Scheme requirement(s) for which variation requested
	FCP (v2.2) 7.30.1: The CAB shall announce the reassessment of a certified fishery no later than the date 90 days after the fourth anniversary of the existing certificate. Exact timing and planning of the reassessment shall remain the responsibility of the CAB, in consultation with the client.
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 CAB is proposing an extension on the timeline by six weeks for the publication of ACDR and announcement of the re-assessment.	
2	Additional time requested	
	Original deadline date	10 th February 2021
	Modified deadline date requested	24 th March 2021
	Length of additional time requested	6 weeks
3	Justification	
	<p>Part of the fishery under assessment is heavily influenced by the outcomes of Brexit, and new regulations relating to fishery-specific regulations and the new relationship between the UK and other coastal states (EU and Norway). The content of an agreement between the UK and the EU, and the UK and Norway has influence on all aspects of the fishery under assessment and the outcomes of all Principles. Furthermore, the Covid-pandemic has slowed down the collection of additional information in some departments. The drafting for the ACDR was thus delayed until the beginning of January 2021, leaving only five weeks before the 90 day deadline associated with clause 7.30.1.</p> <p>In summary, the CAB asks for a little more time to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Collect the final pieces of information for the ACDR and finalise draft scores; <p>This extension does not breach the 6-month post certificate anniversary limit for surveillance audits (certificate anniversary is 12th November). The stakeholders have been made aware of the year 4 surveillance taking place beyond the year 4 certificate anniversary.</p>	
4	Implications for assessment	
	The single implication will be that the reassessment report does not reach PCR stage before the current certificate expiry. However, given that the major information overhaul (Brexit) is being accounted for in the ACDR this is mitigated for and the extension of the announcement deadline by six weeks should still allow the CAB to meet the deadline for re-certification by 11 th November 2021.	
5	Mitigation of the implication for assessment	
	<p>See above. Stakeholders will be offered opportunities to make comment or bring new information pertinent to the scoring of the fishery. Stakeholders would be informed of the audit process and timeline directly via the announcements on the assessment timeline, should this variation request be accepted.</p> <p>Rather than publish an ACDR with information that will be superseded with new data after the site visit from Brexit and harmonisation with other CABs the variation would mitigate the publication of obsolete information on the MSC website.</p>	
6	How many conditions does the fishery have and will their progress be affected (positive or negative)?	

	There are 14 'open' conditions. The progress on these conditions is not expected to be affected by the delayed announcement. Only three of the 14 conditions must be closed by reassessment, all others were raised at scope extension and surveillance audits and are carried across in the reassessment timeline.
7	What is the status of the current assessment?
	Certified since October 2010, most recent surveillance audit carried out in October 2019, with report published in February 2020. The fourth surveillance audit is set to take place at the same time as the reassessment site visit.
8	Further comments
	N/A
9	If applicable, additional information added after MSC's request
	N/A