

Marine Stewardship Council - Variation Request

Date submitted to MSC	25/05/17
Name of CAB	ME Certification Ltd.
Fishery Name/CoC Certificate Number	Dee Estuary Cockle Fishery (MEC-F-033)
Lead Auditor/Programme Manager	Dr Hugh Jones
Scheme requirement(s) for which variation requested	GCR 7.5.6 Fishery Certificate - The CAB shall issue fisheries certificates with a maximum validity period of 5 years from the issue date.
Is this variation sought in order to fulfil IPI requirements (FCR 7.4.14)?	No

1. Proposed variation	
MEC wishes to seek an extension to the current certificate validity for the Dee Estuary Cockle Fishery (MEC-F-033). The certificate is due to expire on 02/07/17. MEC are proposing a two-month extension, to 02/09/17, to allow enough time for the recertification process to be completed without a lapse in certification for the client of this fishery. It is anticipated that the PCR will be published well before that deadline.	
2. Rationale/Justification	
<p>The Dee Estuary was certified under MSC Certification Requirements version 1.1 in July 2012 with no conditions (certificate: MMI-F-124). The fishery was issued a new certificate in response to a change of CAB in September 2015 (certificate: MEC-F-033).</p> <p>The Dee Estuary is managed by Natural Resources Wales (NRW) on behalf of the Environment Agency (EA). At the time of the 4th surveillance audit in July 2016 NRW were unable to confirm the financial capacity to support re-certification of the MSC certificate. Email correspondence (available on request) between MEC and NRW representatives documents the discussion until a final decision to re-certify was taken by NRW on the 11th October 2016.</p> <p>In response to the decision to recertify from NRW, MEC announced the recertification of the fishery on 03/11/16. This announcement was only 8 months prior to the expiry of the current certificate 02/07/17. The reassessment process has followed a suitable timeline including publication of the PCDR within the 9 month deadline; however insufficient time is now available for the remaining assessment stages as a result of the delay in the initiation of the reassessment.</p>	
3. Implications for assessment (required for fisheries assessment variations only)	
No implications for the assessment are foreseen. The PCDR was published before the current certification period expires and within the nine-month fishery announcement to PCDR publication period. MEC does not anticipate the fishery failing its assessment.	
4. Have the stakeholders of this fishery assessment been informed of this request? (required for fisheries assessment variations only)	<p>No</p> <p>A Stakeholder notification will be sent out on approval of this variation request</p>
5. Further Comments	