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Sent by email

Date: 09/03/2020

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement v2.1 FCP - 7.30.1 for SPSG, DPPO, PFA, SPFPO & KFO Atlanto-Scandian purse seine and pelagic trawl herring

Dear Hugh Jones,

I write with reference to your submission on 04/03/2020 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow:

CUP proposes a period of 3 extra months to be added to FCP 2.1 - 7.30.1.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to v2.1 FCP - 7.30.1 state:

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

These 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 supporting your request, including:

- The above noted fishery is shortly undergoing reassessment which must be harmonised with a number of overlapping fisheries.
- Given the complex situation with different timelines and different versions of the certification processes, the CABs group requested several guidances and interpretations to the MSC regarding the correct process to follow.
- During the MSC tripartite meeting held in London on February 18th - 20th, MSC provided the CABs group with an update regarding the status of CABs interpretation requests. CABs have been advised that interpretations are expected to be issued end of March 2020.
- The interpretation requests are required to complete harmonisation and as such rationales and scores on the reassessment cannot be completed without taking these into account.
- As a result the CAB state that the deadline for FCP 2.1 - 7.30.1 cannot be met and request an extension to timelines to begin the reassessment.

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

- No conditions.

If you have any questions regarding this response, please do not hesitate to contact the relevant Fisheries Assessment Manager for this fishery.

Marine Stewardship Council
cc: Assurance Services International

