Hugh Jones
Det Norske Veritas (DNV-GL) Certification
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Høvik
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Sent by email

Date: 01/04/2019

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement vn/a CR-CB2.4.1, FCR-7.11.1.2, FCR-7.11.1.3 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 18/03/2019 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow:

> Implementation of MSC's interpretation (titled 'Scoring the rebuilding Performance Indicator during the certification cycle') on clause CR v1.3 CB2.4.2 with respect to rescoring the rebuilding performance indicator

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to vn/a CR-CB2.4.1, FCR-7.11.1.2, FCR-7.11.1.3 state:

> MSC CR v.1.3 CB2.4.1 - Teams shall only score this PI (PI 1.1.3 Stock rebuilding) when PI 1.1.1 Stock status reveals that a stock is depleted.
>
> MSC FCR v.2.0 7.11.1.2 - The CAB should draft conditions to follow the narrative or metric form of the PISGs used in the final tree.
>
> MSC FCR V.2.0 7.11.1.3 - The CAB shall draft conditions to result in improved performance to at least the 80 level within a period set by the CAB but no longer than the term of the certification

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:

- Due to a conflict between requirements in the MSC Fisheries Standard, CABs must submit a request to vary from certain requirements when implementing CR v1.3 CB2.4.2
- The MSC has provided an interpretation (titled 'Scoring the rebuilding Performance Indicator during the certification cycle') that aids CABs in submitting the appropriate variation request
- This variation request is in line with the MSC's interpretation

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

- Stakeholders are informed
- The MSC interpretation on clause CR v1.3 CB2.4.2 (titled 'Scoring the rebuilding Performance Indicator during the certification cycle') shall be followed in its entirety, as appropriate to the circumstances of the fishery

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: Accreditation Services International