



Lucia Revenga
Det Norske Veritas (DNV-GL) Certification
Veritasveien 1
Høvik
Norway
1363

Sent by email

Date: 22/02/2021

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement v2.1 FCP-7.22.1 for Faroe Islands tusk & ling

Dear Lucia Revenga,

I write with reference to your submission on 22/02/2021 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow:

That the period from the full assessment announcement to the publication of the Final Draft report can be extended by 3 extra months (apart from the 6 extra months already granted by the COVID derogation).

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to v2.1 FCP-7.22.1 state:

If the period from the full assessment announcement to the publication of the Final Draft Report by the MSC is more than 18 months, the CAB shall withdraw the fishery from the MSC assessment process

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:

- There are inconsistencies in the advice provided by the Faroese Research Institute (Havstovan) and ICES advice. In particular, the Havstovan advice for cod has not been peer reviewed by ICES and there are significant discrepancies in the allocated fishing mortality between this advice and the abbreviated ICES advice. Consequently, the newly adopted fishery management plan for cod, haddock and staithe – which is in line with Havstovan management advice - requires ICES evaluation.
- ICES have put a three-month pause on reviewing special requests because of pressure building up across the advisory system due to Covid-19 disruptions, thus causing a delay in the assessment of this fishery.

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

- The extended deadline is 17 January 2022.

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