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Norway

Sent by email

Date: 01 April, 2015

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement CR 7.5.9 for the Norway North East Arctic Cod and Haddock fisheries

Dear Guro

I write with reference to your submission on 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2015 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement CR 7.5.9 to extend the certificates of the Norway NEA cod and haddock fisheries for a period of 4 months beyond the current expiry date of 25 April 2015.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to certificate timelines 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 in your letter supporting your request, including:

- The Norway NEA cod and haddock fisheries are currently undergoing reassessment.
  - Full reassessment was announced May 2014.
  - Site visit was completed June 2014.
  - Release of PRDR was delayed due to complications regarding IPI status of coastal cod, which required clarifications with the client and MSC.
  - The PCDR was published 20 January 2015.
  - At the closing of the PCDR stakeholder consultancy period, comments from stakeholders were received. Processing of these comments has required more time and coordination than expected. Amendments tentatively include additional conditions to the fishery, for which the client should be allowed sufficient time to review, accept or contest, and to provide the required client action plan including any consultation with involved entities.
  
- The variation should not impact the sustainability of the fishery, for which the PCDR draft determination from the reassessment team is that further certification is recommended.

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

- That all stakeholders are notified that the certificates will be extended until 25<sup>th</sup> August 2015 (4 months beyond the current expiry date, 25<sup>th</sup> April, 2015).

If you have any questions regarding this response, please do not hesitate to contact Robert Lefébure, the Fisheries Assessment Manager for this fishery either by email, [Robert.lefebure@msc.org](mailto:Robert.lefebure@msc.org) or phone +44 (0)20 7246 8935.

Best regards,



Dan Hoggarth, Fisheries Oversight director  
Marine Stewardship Council