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Sent by email

Date: 01/03/2011

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC scheme requirement 6.1 & 6.2

Dear Paul,

I write with reference to your submission on 23 February of a request for variation to the MSC scheme requirement FCM v6.1 to allow for the combination of the annual surveillance audits for the Eastern Canada Offshore Scallop and Lobster Fisheries in order to avoid financial costs and avoid duplication requests for information from fisheries managers and scientists.

As you are aware, FCM v6.1 procedures relating to annual surveillance audits are integral to ensuring all MSC accredited certification 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 scheme. MSC notes the factors presented in your letter supporting your request, including:

- reduction of costs and duplication requests for information from fisheries managers and scientists
- agreement from clients of both fisheries on changed surveillance audit dates

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

- progress on conditions will be expected to be met and reported in line with the agreed action plan and MSC scheme requirements

If you have any questions regarding this response, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. G. L.', written in a cursive style.

Senior Fisheries Certification Manager (Acting)

Marine Stewardship Council

cc: ASI