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Dr. Rob Blyth-Skyrme

Associate, Moody Marine Ltd.

Sent by email

Date: 3 December 2010

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC methodology to allow a departure from the prescribed procedure for submission of 3rd surveillance audit for Alaska salmon

Dear Rob,

I write with reference to your submission on 3 December 2010 of a request for variation to the MSC certification methodology to allow a delayed submission of the 3rd annual audit for the Alaska salmon fishery.

As you are aware, the FCM procedures relating to surveillance reporting require annual audits and reporting within 30 days of the completing the audit. These requirements 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, except in exceptional, well-justified circumstances, as part of the MSC scheme.

MSC recalls that the site visit for this audit was conducted early in May 2010 (along with the work for the second audit), and that we had previously agreed to the third report being posted on the normal anniversary date, i.e. during November 2010. We note the factors presented in your letter supporting your request, including:

- the highly complex nature of the fishery; and the demands on the client, managers and the assessment team of producing two substantial audit reports in a short period of time; and
- your confirmation that the fishery is making the improvements required by the conditions set in the current certificate, and continues to be compliant with the MSC standard.

Given the rationale provided, the MSC is willing to grant a variation to FCM v6 section 6.8.2 in this case subject to the following condition:

- The surveillance report will be submitted to MSC at the latest by 15 January 2011.

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 read 'Daniel Suddaby', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Daniel Suddaby
Marine Stewardship Council
cc: ASI