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Sent by email

Date: 05/10/2011

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC scheme requirement FCM v6: 6.1 and 6.2

Dear Amanda Park,

I write with reference to your submission on 04/10/2011 of a revised request for variation to the MSC scheme requirement to allow the extension of the deadline for the combined fourth year surveillance and recertification site visit for the fishery.

As you are aware, the FCM 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:

- The timelines required for adequate stakeholder consultation in the recertification timeframe.
- The contingency time that may be necessary for addressing stakeholder comments on the use of the RBF, the assessment tree or the assessment team.

Given the rationale provided, the MSC is willing to grant a variation to the scheme requirement in this case. The MSC recognises there have been audit scheduling issues during the history of this certification and expects that in granting this variation stakeholders will have appropriate opportunities to contribute to the re-assessment.

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

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Dan Hoggarth'.

Dan Hoggarth  
Senior Fisheries Assessment Manager  
Marine Stewardship Council

cc: ASI