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Sent by email

Date: 24 March 2011



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Subject: Request for variation to the MSC scheme requirement FCM v6 section 5.3.1 for the Australian mackerel icefish fishery

Dear Sabine,

I write with reference to your submission on 12 March 2011 of a request for variation to the MSC scheme requirement on the maximum period of certificate validity by three months.

As you are aware, the FCM procedures relating to the duration of certification under section 5.3 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:

- SCS has found that the fishery has made adequate progress in addressing conditions from year to year and feels that there are no negative issues that would preclude the granting of this extension.
- SCS believes there is no threat that this extension would result in non-certified product entering the marketplace as certified.
- No substantive impact on the assessment or other requirements.

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

- Stakeholders are informed about the change to the duration of the certificate, and what effects this may have on the assessment or on the supply chain.

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 'Maylynn Nunn', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Maylynn Nunn
Senior Fisheries Certification Manager

Marine Stewardship Council
cc: ASI