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Sent by email

Date: 12/01/2011

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC methodology to allow a departure from the prescribed procedure for change in units of certification

Dear Jason Combes,

I write with reference to your submission on 10/01/2011 of a request for variation to the MSC certification methodology to allow a change in the units of certification.

As you are aware, the TAB procedures relating to the determination of the units of certification (TAB D10:2.6) 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 notes the factors presented in your letter supporting your request, including:

- Changes being made before site visit has occurred
- Changes being made back to original list of units of certification

Given the rationale provided, the MSC is willing to grant a variation to the methodology in this case. However, we underline again that variation requests are meant to occur only in exceptional, unavoidable circumstances.

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. J. ...'.

Maylynn Nunn  
Senior Fisheries Certification Manager (Acting)  
Marine Stewardship Council

cc: ASI