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**Sent by email**

Date: 17/09/2019

**Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement v2.0 FCR-7.4.10 for Namibia hake trawl and longline fishery**

Dear Hugh Jones,

I write with reference to your submission on 02/09/2019 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow:

A change to UoA 1 and 3 to take into account the revised stock identity information.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to v2.0 FCR-7.4.10 state:

7.4.10 The CAB shall not change the UoA and UoC during the assessment unless:

7.4.10.1 The UoA is announced provisionally in the initial announcement and confirmed later in conformance with 7.10.2

These are integral to ensuring all MSC accredited Conformity Assessment 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 programme.

**MSC notes the factors presented supporting your request, including:**

- Discussions with relevant fisheries scientists at, and following the site visit, as well as harmonisation discussions between the Namibia and SA Hake assessment teams have concluded (including a shared condition on PI 3.1.1.) in agreement that the Offshore Hake (*M. paradoxus*) stock is shared between the two fisheries.
- The result of the team's current understanding means the *M. paradoxus* UoAs are no longer representative of the assessment taking place with respect to the scale of the stock. The reclassification of *M. paradoxus* is not only necessary for the correct assessment of the stock, but also for continuing harmonisation (further harmonisation discussions planned with focus on P1 and P3) with the South Africa hake assessment.
- There is also agreement that the Inshore Hake (*M. capensis*) has discrete populations in both countries' waters and therefore does not require Principle 1 and 3 harmonisation.

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

- All stakeholders are informed of changes to the UoA; and,
- ECert is updated to reflect changes in UoA.

If you have any questions regarding this response, please do not hesitate to contact the relevant Fisheries Assessment Manager for this fishery.

Marine Stewardship Council  
cc: Accreditation Services International