



Jo Gascoigne
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Sent by email

Date: 20/06/2017

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement v2.0 FCR-7.4.10 for French Polynesia albacore and yellowfin longline fishery

Dear Jo Gascoigne,

I write with reference to your submission on 26/05/2017 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow:

The UoA will be changed to include the stock of the Eastern Pacific yellowfin and the management of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC).

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:

- The pre-assessment identified that catches of yellowfin would come from the Western Central Pacific Ocean Stock
- More accurate information has been gathered indicating catches of yellowfin also come from the Eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO) stock
- A 30-day stakeholder input period will take place upon acceptance of this request given that it adds the EPO stock as a Unit of Assessment

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

- Stakeholders are informed of the additional comment period, including making clear that the assessment team of the team are available to meet with stakeholders by virtual means if they would like to discuss any issues
- Any stakeholder comments received during the 30 day period are taken into account and responded to in the Public Comment Draft Report



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