



Jennifer Humberstone
Scientific Certification Systems
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Sent by email

Date: 16/05/2018

Dear Jennifer Humberstone,

I write with reference to your submission on 04/05/2018 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow:

A variation to the Annex PF requirements for conducting a de novo PSA for Principle 1 species that trigger the RBF (Requirements Table PF1 and PF4), and propose that we instead be permitted to review and use as appropriate the results of the PSA conducted in the fall of 2017 to evaluate Northern shortfin squid as a Main Secondary species under the same (pending) fishery certificate for longfin inshore squid.

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:

- Under this assessment, Northern shortfin squid has qualified as a Main Secondary species, and the data limited nature of the species triggered use of the RBF. The assessment team therefore followed the RBF assessment requirements found in Annex PF, including the conduct of a PSA in accordance with Annex PF4 requirements, in the fall of 2017.
- To minimize redundancy in time and costs, the assessment team considers it most appropriate to adopt the findings of the PSA from the full assessment process, subject to a review of the findings by the assessment team and stakeholders, rather than re-do the analysis.
- The assessment process would still comply with the general RBF requirements for fishery announcements (7.7.6, 7.8.4) stakeholder consultation and information gathering under Annex PF (1,2), and a CA will be conducted in accordance with Annex PF3.

In this case the rationale is insufficient for the MSC to grant a variation to the CR. This request is therefore declined.

- The fishery referenced in the variation request is still the subject of assessment.

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