



Billy Hynes
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Sent by email

Date: 05/04/2017

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement v2.0 FCR-7.4.10 for Echebastar Indian Ocean purse seine skipjack tuna

Dear Billy Hynes,

I write with reference to your submission on 04/04/2017 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow:

To change the Unit of Assessment from that defined in the notification report

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 Unit of Assessment for this fishery includes other fishers eligible to join the fishery's certification.
- However, as confirmed at the site visit several of the factors contributing to the scoring of the fishery in relation to P2 (bycatch) and available observer data are specific to the Echebastar fleet and would not be transferable to another fishery.

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 made aware of the change.
- The notification report is updated and resubmitted onto eCert.

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