Marine Stewardship Council - Variation Request

Date submitted to MSC	28th September 2017
Name of CAB	Acoura Marine
Fishery Name/CoC Certificate Number	North West Atlantic Canada longline swordfish & North West Atlantic Canada harpoon swordfish
Lead Auditor/Programme Manager	Paul Knapman/Billy Hynes
Variation prepared by:	Billy Hynes with Paul Knapman
Scheme requirement(s) for which variation requested	GCR V2.1 7.5.6 The CAB shall issue fisheries certificates with a maximum validity period of 5 years from the issue date.
Is this variation sought in order to fulfil IPI requirements (FCR 7.4.14)?	No

1. Proposed variation
Both the North-West Atlantic (NWA) Harpoon swordfish and longline swordfish fisheries have certificates due to expire on the 30th October 2017 following earlier variations to extend the certificates as detailed below. Acoura request certificate extensions until 12th December 2017.
2. Rationale/Justification
The NWA Canada Harpoon swordfish had a certificate due to expire on 17th June 2015. Through a variation request accepted by the MSC (VR dated 6th May 2014), the certificate was extended by 1 year and 10 months, till the 18th April 2017, to line up with the expiry date of the NWA Canada longline fishery. During this extra certificate length, the Harpoon fishery had 2 extra surveillance audits to ensure continued compliance with the MSC standard. Acoura requested an extension of the certificates until 30th September 2017, to allow both reassessments to complete with continuous certification following harmonisation. A variation was submitted on the 18th August 2017 to extend the certificate until 15th December. MSC accepted this variation but only until 30th October pending demonstration of progress through the submission of the Public Comment Draft Report (PCDR) by September 28th 2017. The PCDR was published on the 28th September and Acoura now request a final extension to the certificate during re-assessment to allow 2 weeks for the review of comments to PCDR and the objection period. Reviewing the calendar and how the dates fall, the 12th December 2017 is the earliest projected date.
3. Implications for assessment (required for fisheries assessment variations only)
The only implication for the re-assessment is the timing.

4. Have the stakeholders of this fishery assessment been informed of this request? (required for fisheries assessment variations only)	No

5. Further Comments
N/A