



Kat Collinson
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Sent by email

Date: 23/03/2017

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement v2.0 FCR-7.4.10 for American Samoa EEZ Albacore and Yellowfin Longline Fishery

Dear Kat Collinson,

I write with reference to your submission on 14/03/2017 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow:

Reduction of the UoA to the UoC (only include those vessels under the Starkist Tuna Supply Agreement).

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:

- Reduction of UoA will not impact the sustainability of the fishery.
- Scoring has not yet been undertaken.
- Presently, no vessels outside the UoC have yet entered into supply agreements with Starkist and rarely fish in the American Samoan EEZ or deliver to the American Samoa processing plant.
- Sufficient information was collected prior to and during the site visit, so that the team can conduct the assessment on the new UoC/A without need for further information requests or additional site visits.

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; and,
- Ecert is updated to reflect the change 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