



Polly Burns  
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United Kingdom  
EH12 9DQ

**Sent by email**

Date: 27/04/2018

**Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement vn/a Simplification Pilot v1.6 - 1.6.1 for Louisiana blue crab**

Dear Polly Burns,

I write with reference to your submission on 27/04/2018 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow:

Acoura would like to request the eligibility date for the Louisiana Blue Crab is set as the publication date of the second draft report and not the first draft report.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to vn/a Simplification Pilot v1.6 - 1.6.1 state:

The requirements under FCR  
7.6 apply except 7.6.1.2, which should be the publication date of the  
First Draft Report rather than PCDR

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:**

- This request will result in increased transparency in the assessment

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

None

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