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Amanda Park
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Sent by email

Date: 5/3/13

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement 27.22.3.1

Dear Amanda Park,

I write with reference to your submission on 22/2/13 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow the annual surveillance audit for the Eastern Canada scallop fishery to be outside of the annual reporting cycle.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to annual surveillance audit schedule are integral to ensuring all MSC accredited Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) 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 in your letter supporting your request, including:

- To limit auditing costs and DFO staff time, it is proposed that three fisheries hold their surveillance audits simultaneously: Eastern Canada offshore lobster fishery (certified June 2010), Eastern Canada offshore scallop fishery (certified March 2010), and Banquereau and Grand Bank Arctic Surf Clam fishery (certified July 2012). The proposed audit time of May is a compromise between the three fisheries.



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- A previous variation request was submitted and accepted to allow the scallop audits to be delayed until May, joining with the lobster fishery, to allow cost savings and time efficiencies.
- The proposed schedule will be followed for the remainder of these fisheries' certificates.

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

- The CAB can confirm that it is not aware at this time of any factor (related to either fishery status or performance against conditions) that could result in the fishery no longer being in compliance with the MSC fishery standard.

If you have any questions regarding this response, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'David Hoopall'.

Fisheries Oversight Director
Marine Stewardship Council

cc: ASI