



Sabine Daume
q.inspecta GmbH (q.inspecta)
Ackerstrasse
Frick
Switzerland
5070

Sent by email

Date: 02/03/2022

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirements v2.2 FCP-30.5 and FCP-7.30.5.2 for Western Australia abalone

Dear Sabine Daume,

I write with reference to your submission on 02/03/2022 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow:

To carry the open condition into the next certification cycle due to exceptional circumstances and extend the deadline.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to v2.2 FCP-7.30.5 state:

The CAB shall consider all surveillance reports and outcomes and evaluate progress against certification conditions. Unless exceptional circumstances as set out in 7.18.1.6 or 7.30.5.3 apply, the fishery shall have met all conditions and milestones

And, relating to v2.2 FCP-7.30.5.2 they state:

If there are any open conditions, the team shall apply 7.28.16.1, 7.28.16.2.a and 7.28.16.4.a to determine the adequacy of progress against those conditions and milestones

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 greenlip stock will continue to rebuild in line with the rebuilding strategy and in doing so, progress towards meeting the condition.
- It is important to note that the stock is above PRI and rebuilding, it has robust monitoring in place and the management agency is highly responsive.

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

- Notwithstanding the subject matter of this variation, 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 Fisheries Standard

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: Assurance Services International

