

Adrienne Vincent

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Sent by email

Date: 18th July 2011



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Subject: Request for variation to the MSC scheme requirement FCM v6.1: 5.3.1

Dear Adrienne,

I write with reference to your submission on 10th July 2011 of a request for variation to the MSC scheme requirement to allow an extension of the existing US Pacific Halibut fishery certificate until the 9th of August 2011. This request was resubmitted following a request from MSC for further rationale on 15th July 2011.

As you are aware, the FCM procedures defined in Section 5.3 are integral to ensuring all MSC accredited certification bodies operate in a consistent and transparent manner. The duration of certification 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 scheme.

MSC notes the factors presented in your letter supporting your request, including:

- Additional time to respond to stakeholder comments caused a slight delay of the submittal of the Final Certification Report.
- Some comment responses required further coordination and information gathering from outside agency personnel and the client.

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

- Stakeholders are informed about the change to the duration of the certificate, and what effects this may have on the assessment or on the supply chain.

The MSC notes that this the second variation granted during this reassessment to FCM v6.1: 5.3.1. Two further variations were granted in relation to timelines earlier in the certification period. The MSC strongly advises SCS to review their systems to ensure that assessments are completed in a timely manner in accordance with the FCM procedures.

SCS should also note that the MSC Variations form states that we will usually respond within ten days of receiving a request. We advise that if a timeline issue such as this is foreseen it would be advisable to

allow the maximum time specified for consideration of a request. In this case, further justification was required making time available for consideration of the request very short.

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

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Maylynn Nunn', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Maylynn Nunn,

Senior Fisheries Certification Manager

Marine Stewardship Council

cc: ASI