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**Sent by email**

Date: 17/12/2021

**Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement v2.2 FCP - 7.25.1 for Australia west coast deep sea crab**

Dear Sabine Daume,

I write with reference to your submission on 15/12/2021 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow:

Change the re-certification date before the 5th anniversary date which is currently the 14 January 2022 (before Covid derogation 14 July 2021) to align with the certification date for another Western Australian Fishery.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to v2.2 FCP - 7.25.1 state:

If the CAB makes a decision to award certification, the CAB shall determine that the date of certification is the date the Public Certification Report is published on the MSC website or, for reassessments, the 5th anniversary date of the existing certificate, whichever is later

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:**

- Bringing the certification forward will allow assessment stages between this fishery and the Western Australia Peel Harvey Estuarine Fishery to align. This will enable audits to be conducted concurrently and have the same certificate year and possible condition milestones.
- The new certification date has been proposed and agreed to by the client.

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

- The CAB shall inform stakeholders of the new certification date.

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