

Marine Stewardship Council - Variation Request

Date submitted to MSC	21 st May 2018
Name of CAB	Acoura
Fishery Name/CoC Certificate Number	New Zealand Hoki
Lead Auditor/Programme Manager	Paul Knapman/Polly Burns
Variation prepared by:	Polly Burns
Scheme requirement(s) for which variation requested	GCR V2.1: 7.5.6 The CAB shall issue fisheries certificates with a maximum validity period of 5 years from the issue date.
Is this variation sought in order to fulfil IPI requirements (FCR 7.4.14)?	No

1. Proposed variation	
Extend the certificates by three months moving the expiry date from 1 st June 2018 till 1 st September 2018.	
2. Rationale/Justification	
<p>This fishery has been undergoing reassessment as part of the New Zealand Deepwater Group hake, hoki, ling and southern blue whiting fishery. The hoki certificate has previously been extended by 9 months from 24th September 2017 till 1st June 2018. This extension was requested conscious that surveillance audits would ensure the fishery still meets the standard.</p> <p>As explained in previous variation requests to the MSC (please see the assessment downloads) this assessment process has been subject to several delays as a result of (most notably) demands on team member availability.</p> <p>There remains no risk to the sustainability of these fisheries. The reassessment, which is currently at the PCDR stage, has deemed that the fishery meets the MSC standard, and subject to completion of the assessment will be recertified. A break in certification would cause financial and logistical stresses to the client and logistical challenges along the supply chain. This short extension will allow an unbroken certification period and for the final assessment process to complete. It has been less than 10 months since the site visit and stakeholders have the opportunity to comment on the PCDR with the consultation closing 26th May 2018.</p>	
3. Implications for assessment (required for fisheries assessment variations only)	
No other effects on the assessment. As detailed in previous variation requests, this one is a result of acceptance of previous requests. It should be noted the extension being asked for is precautionary and significantly less of an extension requested than under different outcomes following VRs.	
4. Have the stakeholders of this fishery assessment been informed of this request? (required for fisheries assessment variations only)	No.
5. Further Comments	
<p>Three other fisheries are involved with this reassessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New Zealand Hake (expiry date 15th September 2018), - New Zealand EEZ ling trawl and longline (expiry date 15th September 2018), - New Zealand southern blue whiting trawl (expiry date 1st June 2018, also being requested to be extended for the same length of time in a separate variation request) <p>The former two certificates are being cut short by being involved in this combined reassessment process.</p>	