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Sent by email

Date: November 28 2011

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

Dear Sabine,

I write with reference to your submission on 23 November 2011 of a request for variation to the MSC scheme requirement to allow a 3 month extension of the validity of the fishery certificate.

As you are aware, the FCM procedures relating to the validity of fisheries certificates 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 in your letter supporting your request, including:

- Additional time was required to respond to extensive stakeholder comments received during the first and second re-assessment meeting in December 2010 and May 2011 respectively causing a delay of the submission of the PCDR. Major changes in the fishery also required a second site visit.
- One of the experts on the assessment team has been unavailable and not able to respond to relevant peer reviewer and stakeholder comments for several weeks.

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

- All relevant stakeholders are informed of this change as required.

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 "Dan Hoggarth". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Dan Hoggarth
Senior Fisheries Assessment Manager

Marine Stewardship Council
cc: ASI