

# Marine Stewardship Council - Variation Request

<b>Date submitted to MSC</b>	28 <sup>th</sup> September 2017
<b>Name of CAB</b>	Acoura Marine
<b>Fishery Name/CoC Certificate Number</b>	North West Atlantic Canada longline swordfish & North West Atlantic Canada harpoon swordfish
<b>Lead Auditor/Programme Manager</b>	Paul Knapman/Billy Hynes
<b>Variation prepared by:</b>	Billy Hynes with Paul Knapman
<b>Scheme requirement(s) for which variation requested</b>	GCR V2.1 7.5.6 The CAB shall issue fisheries certificates with a maximum validity period of 5 years from the issue date.
<b>Is this variation sought in order to fulfil IPI requirements (FCR 7.4.14)?</b>	No

<b>1. Proposed variation</b>	
Both the North-West Atlantic (NWA) Harpoon swordfish and longline swordfish fisheries have certificates due to expire on the 30th October 2017 following earlier variations to extend the certificates as detailed below. Acoura request certificate extensions until 12 <sup>th</sup> December 2017.	
<b>2. Rationale/Justification</b>	
<p>The NWA Canada Harpoon swordfish had a certificate due to expire on 17th June 2015. Through a variation request accepted by the MSC (VR dated 6th May 2014), the certificate was extended by 1 year and 10 months, till the 18th April 2017, to line up with the expiry date of the NWA Canada longline fishery. During this extra certificate length, the Harpoon fishery had 2 extra surveillance audits to ensure continued compliance with the MSC standard. Acoura requested an extension of the certificates until 30th September 2017, to allow both reassessments to complete with continuous certification following harmonisation. A variation was submitted on the 18<sup>th</sup> August 2017 to extend the certificate until 15<sup>th</sup> December. MSC accepted this variation but only until 30<sup>th</sup> October pending demonstration of progress through the submission of the Public Comment Draft Report (PCDR) by September 28<sup>th</sup> 2017.</p> <p>The PCDR was published on the 28<sup>th</sup> September and Acoura now request a final extension to the certificate during re-assessment to allow 2 weeks for the review of comments to PCDR and the objection period. Reviewing the calendar and how the dates fall, the 12<sup>th</sup> December 2017 is the earliest projected date.</p>	
<b>3. Implications for assessment (required for fisheries assessment variations only)</b>	
The only implication for the re-assessment is the timing.	
<b>4. Have the stakeholders of this fishery assessment been informed of this request? (required for fisheries assessment variations only)</b>	No
<b>5. Further Comments</b>	
N/A	