



Marine House  
1 Snow Hill  
London  
EC1A 2DH  
United Kingdom  
Tel: +44 (0)207 246 9800  
Fax: +44 (0)207 246 9801

Tristan Southall  
Food Certification International Ltd.  
Findhorn House  
Dochfour Business Centre  
Dochgarroch, Inverness  
Scotland V3 8GY

Sent by email

Date: 16 October 2014

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement 27.22.2

Dear Tristan Southall,

I write with reference to your submission on 14 October 2014 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow the upcoming surveillance audit for the Suriname Atlantic seabob shrimp fishery to be held remotely.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to the location of surveillance audits 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:

- The surveillance audit was due to be undertaken as an on-site audit, but due to exceptional circumstances out of our control (as explained in the confidential section of this application), this is no longer an option. If stakeholders require more information about the exact nature of these exceptional circumstances, they can contact the CAB.
- The availability of the assessment team is limited due to other commitments in the upcoming months so, if the surveillance was re-scheduled, it would likely not be until early 2015.
- There have been no significant changes to operational practices in this fishery, except a change to the management personnel at the Client Group. In terms of gear or area of fishing, the fishery remains within scope.
- There are six outstanding conditions for this fishery: four that are on target and two that are ahead of target. The client will provide full written justification for all of the conditions, including any supporting evidence – in the form of data.



Marine House  
1 Snow Hill  
London  
EC1A 2DH  
United Kingdom  
Tel: +44 (0)207 246 9800  
Fax: +44 (0)207 246 9801

- All arrangements are already in place for the surveillance audit, and a remote surveillance would still include conference calls and/or email contact, in particular with the client, the stakeholders, and appropriate government representatives in order for the assessment team to gather the information they require to address the condition milestones.
- All stakeholders will be notified that the surveillance will be carried out remotely.

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

- All stakeholders are still given ample opportunity to contribute.
- Stakeholders will be given the opportunity to request an on-site meeting with a locally based member of the original team, if desired.

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'.

Dan Hoggarth  
Fisheries Oversight Director  
Marine Stewardship Council

cc: ASI