



Cora Seip-Markensteijn
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Sent by email

Date: 22/03/2019

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement v2.0 FCR-7.4.10 for Maruto Suisan rope grown Pacific oyster, Okayama fishery

Dear Cora Seip-Markensteijn,

I write with reference to your submission on 14/03/2019 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow:

A change to the UoA so that the client group includes only those members of the Fishery Cooperative Okucho using only Okayama oyster seed for grow out

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to v2.0 FCR-7.4.10 state:

7.4.10 The CAB shall not change the UoA and UoC during the assessment unless:

7.4.10.1 The UoA is announced provisionally in the initial announcement and confirmed later in conformance with 7.10.2

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:

- The CAB identified traceability risks prior to the site visit
- Traceability risks were reviewed during the site visit
- In order to minimise traceability risk, the client has requested to narrow the UoA to only include producers that use 100% locally caught seed in Okayama.

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

- Stakeholders are informed; and,
- Ecert is updated to reflect the change in UoA

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: Accreditation Services International