



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

Paul Knapman
1801 Hollis Street
Suite 1220
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3N4
Canada

Sent by email

Date: 05.09.2013

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement CR 24.2.2 for the Zhangzidao scallop fishery

Dear Paul

I write with reference to your submission on 28.07.2013 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to extend the timeline requirements relating to the 18 month period from the last site visit to the PCDR to allow for completion of the PCDR.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to the timelines for fishery assessments 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:

- Illness of an assessment team member,
- Delays due to translation of scientific reports,
- Difficulty in finding a qualified peer reviewer, and
- No stakeholders participated in the first site visit.

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 consulted on these timeline changes.
- An offsite audit may be held unless stakeholders request an on-site visit.
- All efforts are undertaken to avoid any further timeline delays.

If you have any questions regarding this response, please do not hesitate to contact Maylynn Nunn, the Fisheries Assessment Manager for this fishery either by email maylynn.nunn@msc.org or phone +61 9524 8400.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Hopwood', written in a cursive style.

Fisheries Oversight Director
Marine Stewardship Council
cc: ASI, lead auditor