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Sent by email

Date: 09/06/2016

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement v2.1 GCR-7.5.6 for British Columbia sockeye salmon

Dear Polly Burns,

I write with reference to your submission on 17/05/2016 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow:

The certificate for British Columbia Pink salmon is due to expire on the 27th July 2016, with British Columbia Sockeye Salmon due to expire on the 31st August 2016. Both fisheries are currently undergoing reassessment in combination with the BC Chum salmon fisheries as one fishery; British Columbia Salmon. In order for this process to complete it is requested that both certificates are extended until the 31st December 2016, or completion of reassessment, whichever comes first.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to v2.1 GCR-7.5.6 state:

The CAB shall issue fisheries certificates with a maximum validity period of 5 years from the issue date

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:

British Columbia Pink Salmon was MSC certified on 28th July 2011, with BC Sockeye certified on the 29th July 2010. They are currently undergoing reassessment in combination with the British Columbia Chum fishery (which does not expire until 7th February 2018). BC Pink Salmon is due to expire on the 27th July 2016, with Sockeye due to expire on the 31st August 2016 (having already been extended by 13 months following a variation request granted by the MSC). Along with the Pink and Sockeye, the British Columbia Chum Salmon is also being reassessed under the new fishery name 'British Columbia Salmon' and being brought into the same timeline. The Chum certificate will be cut short, as it is not due to expire until 7th January 2018.

- The fishery entered re-assessment in October 2015, with the site visit occurring in November. The fisheries commenced re-assessment after their certificate anniversary dates, and later than planned due to a number of procedural delays (full details of which can be found pages 4-5 of the review document here). This left a short period of time in which the reassessment could complete before the certificate expires.

- In order that the re-assessment process can complete without the Pink or Sockeye Salmon's certificates being affected, the CAB requests that the certificates be extended until the 31st December 2016, or when re-assessment completes; whichever is sooner. It is noted that the Client Draft Report is expected in the next two weeks.

- The fishery's sustainability status will not be affected by this change; Acoura can confirm that it is not aware at this time of any factor (related to either fishery status, or performance against conditions) that could result in the fishery no longer being in compliance with the MSC Fisheries Standard.

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



- The CAB can confirm that it is not aware at this time of any factor (related to either fishery status, or performance against conditions) that could result in the fishery no longer being in compliance with the MSC Fisheries Standard.
- Stakeholders are informed.
- ECert is updated to reflect changes, including providing a certificate covering the period from the end of the current certificate to the date accepted in the variation response.

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