

Marine Stewardship Council

Variation Request Form

Certification Body	<i>Scientific Certification Systems</i>
Fishery Name/CoC Certificate Number	<i>Oregon Dungeness Crab/ SCS-MF-0024</i>
Lead Auditor/Programme Manager	<i>Dr. Sabine Daume/Same</i>
Scheme requirement(s) to vary from	<i>CR v1.2 27.22.3.1</i>

Proposed variation

Variance to the annual on-site visit by the certification body. SCS request to conduct the audit in February instead of the anniversary date of 1 December (2-3 months later). All other aspects of the surveillance audit will remain unchanged.

Rationale/Justification

The fishery was certified in 20010. The fishery received 9 conditions for Continued Certification and has made significant progress during the first year. The second annual surveillance audit is due to be conducted in December this year. Upon consultations with fishery clients, scientists and managers, the current timing of the audit at the anniversary of the certification date (December) will consistently conflict with availability of key staff that would be interviewed at onsite meetings (see also attached support letter). During that time key staff will be conducting coast wide preseason testing to assess the quality of crabs. Moving the audit to a date in February when the work is finalized would help to reduce the burden on fisheries staff.

Note: the surveillance level of this fishery is 'normal.' i.e. annual.

Implications for assessment (required for fisheries assessment variations only)

None. The fishery is currently certified.

Have the stakeholders of this fishery assessment been informed of this request? (required for fisheries assessment variations only)

Stakeholders will be informed of the change if approved.

Further Comments

This request has been made on behalf of the fishery client and managers (see attached support letter).