



Kat Collinson
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Sent by email

Date: 21/02/2017

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement v2.0 FCR-7.9.1 for Bahamian Spiny Lobster Fishery

Dear Kat Collinson,

I write with reference to your submission on 08/02/2017 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow:

Not all the assessment team will be onsite for the initial certification site visit.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to v2.0 FCR-7.9.1 state:

7.9.1 The team shall carry out the on-site assessment as planned. The team shall: ■

7.9.1.1 Conduct stakeholder interviews to make sure that the team is aware of any concerns or information that stakeholders may have: a. The team shall allow private interviews with the team for stakeholders who request one; b. The team shall use any information provided in private in conformity with the confidentiality requirements in 4.4; c. If stakeholders do not wish or are not able to be interviewed, the team shall inform them that they may send written information to the team

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:

- Unforeseen circumstances mean that P1 assessor is unable to attend site-visit.
- Team leader will be present on site-visit.
- No immediate implications for assessment.

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

- CABs make clear that all members of the team are available to meet with stakeholders by virtual or other means, including at mutually convenient physical locations where it is shown that this would be necessary to effectively communicate key issues.

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