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Sent by email

Date: 30.09.2013

Subject: Request for variation to CR27.22.3.2 to hold an offsite surveillance audit for the PNA Western & Central Pacific skipjack tuna fishery

Dear Paul

I write with reference to your submission on 10.09.2013 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to hold the second surveillance audit offsite in Cairns, Australia instead of onsite at Majuro in the Marshall Islands.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to surveillance audit locations 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 program.

MSC notes the factors presented in your letter supporting your request, including:

- Holding the surveillance audit site visit in Cairns would significantly reduce travel time and cost to the fishery client.
- An onsite visit to the Marshall Islands is unlikely to facilitate stakeholder involvement.
- The first annual surveillance visit took place in Port Douglas near Cairns in December 2012. Stakeholders did not comment on the change of venue.

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

- Stakeholders are informed of this change.

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 Hoopell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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