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**Sent by email**

Date: 1/14/2020

**Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement v2.0 FCR-7.4.10 for Pan Pacific yellowfin, bigeye and albacore longline fishery**

Dear Hugh Jones,

I write with reference to your submission on 07/01/2020 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow:

Removal of 4 UoAs from the original 18 UoAs that have been announced.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to v2.0 FCR-7.4.10 state:

7.4.10 The CAB shall not change the UoA and UoC during the assessment unless:

7.4.10.1 The UoA is announced provisionally in the initial announcement and confirmed later in conformance with 7.10.2

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:**

- 18 UoA combinations were announced for this fishery assessment based on 6 stocks and 5 jurisdictions.
- One of the UoAs has been identified to not be a valid combination of stock, area and management as relevant management is undertaken by the other RFMO therefore the UoA is not reflective of the state of management for the stock and is not required (i.e. South Pacific albacore tuna in EPO high seas).
- Following consideration by the client following the PRDR stage they have requested that a further three UoAs which are bound by the Solomon Islands Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and management system be also removed from the fishery (i.e. bigeye tuna, yellowfin tuna and South Pacific albacore tuna).
- The client have not fished in these waters for the last three years and following a revision of management strategy do not consider they will apply for licences within in the Solomon Islands Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) for the foreseeable future.

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

- All stakeholders are informed of changes to the UoAs.
- ECert is updated to reflect changes of the UoAs within the assessment.

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: Assurance Services International