



Polly Burns
Acoura Marine
6 Redheughs Rigg
Edinburgh
United Kingdom
EH12 9DQ

Sent by email

Date: 09/09/2016

Dear Polly Burns,

I write with reference to your submission on 19/08/2016 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow:

The public comment draft report will be submitted to the MSC after the 9-month deadline, with a delay of 5 months (i.e., to submit the PCDR by 20th December 2016).

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:

- Three fisheries have combined in reassessment making this a particularly complex fishery.
- The salmon season is currently in full swing, and consequently key personnel at the management agency whom are needed to consult on the action plan are fully engaged with managing the fishery at this time.

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

- Evidence of progress can be provided;
- Stakeholders are informed of the delay and their next opportunity to input on the assessment;
- An updated timeline is provided for posting on the MSC website.

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