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**Sent by email**

Date: 15/05/2017

**Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement v2.1 GCR-7.5.6 for Argentine hoki (*Macruronus magellanicus*) bottom and mid-water trawl fishery**

Dear Carolina Medina Foucher,

I write with reference to your submission on 03/05/2017 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow:

OIA is requesting that the current expiration date of certificate (21st May 2017), be extended for 5 months until 21st October 2017 to allow enough time for the re-certification process to be completed.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to v2.1 GCR-7.5.6 state:

The CAB shall issue fisheries certificates with a maximum validity period of 5 years from the issue date

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:**

- Surveillance process delayed the re-assessment.
- Re-assessment following the new FCRv2.0.

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

- The CAB can confirm that it is not aware at this time of any factor (related to either fishery status, or performance against conditions) that could result in the fishery no longer being in compliance with the MSC Fisheries Standard.
- Stakeholders are informed.
- ECert is updated to reflect changes, including providing a certificate covering the period from the end of the current certificate to the date accepted in the variation response.

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