



Bob Trumble
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Sent by email

Date: 01/08/2016

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement v1.3 CR-27.11.1.3 for US North Atlantic swordfish

Dear Bob Trumble,

I write with reference to your submission on 26/05/2016 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow:

To extend the timeline for closing out the conditions by 2 years to coincide with that of the SSLC US North Atlantic swordfish longline fishery.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to v1.3 CR-27.11.1.3 state:

27.11.1 The CAB shall set one or more auditable and verifiable conditions for continuing certification if the fishery achieves a score of less than 80 but more than 60 for any individual PI. 27.11.1.3 The CAB shall draft conditions to result in improved performance to at least the 80 level within a period set by the CAB but no longer than the term of the certification, subject to 27.11.8

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:

The US North Atlantic and SSLC fisheries were assessed using the same default assessment tree.

MRAG Americas and IFC (now Acoura) harmonized the conditions, but the time lines and client action plans for closing conditions do not match. By aligning the time lines for the conditions, the two fisheries can maintain the same schedule for condition milestones and client action plans.

Given the common assessment components and the need for harmonization, the extension of the Day Boat time line for closing conditions to align with SSLC will allow for efficiencies with respect to reducing duplication of effort.

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

MSC recommend conducting reassessment using v2.0.

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