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Sent by email

Date: 04/07/2012

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement CR 27.4.3

Dear Clare Murray,

I write with reference to your submission on 4th July 2012 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR 27.4.3) in which the CAB shall note that once defined, the unit of certification cannot be changed during the assessment without approval from the MSC, using the variation process.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to the Confirmation of Scope 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 in your letter supporting your request, including:

- Through stakeholder meetings further clarification on aspects of this fishery has come to light on the scope of the assessment which was not evident at application of the fishery.
- The variation should not cause delays in the process as the assessors have been fully aware of the proposed extension of the scope of the assessment throughout the stakeholder meetings and have accounted for the changes in their review of information.



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- The implications for the assessment are that the Unit of Certification is more clearly defined, reduced in size and not extended into new areas of potential impact.
- The scoring process has not been conducted as yet and no changes to the assessment tree are considered necessary by the team.

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

- CAB shall inform to stakeholders about the variation request and acceptance.

If you have any questions regarding this response, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Dan Hoggarth'.

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