



Amanda Stern-Pirlot
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Sent by email

Date: 30/10/2018

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement v2.1 GCR-7.5.6 for Alaska salmon

Dear Amanda Stern-Pirlot,

I write with reference to your submission on 25/10/2018 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow:

The fishery certificate validity will be extended to April 11, 2019, five months after its current expiration date. As compensation, if the current reassessment process is successful, the new fishery certificate will have a validity extending to November 11, 2023—i.e. 5 years from the expiry of the current certificate before extension, meaning the most recent two certification cycles will have totalled 10 years rather than 10.4 years if the current process concludes in April.

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:

The client draft report recommends the fishery for re-certification against the MSC Standard.

Major transitions in the Alaskan government, including retirement of the director of commercial fisheries and resulting lack of deputy director has resulted in competing priorities in the department and therefore a delay in providing the client with a letter of support for the client actio plan.

The only component of the fishery currently open is the small troll fishery for king salmon in Southeast Alaska (capped at 45,000 fish; a miniscule fraction of the total state-wide salmon catch).

The reassessment process will be concluded well before the vast majority of the fishery opens for the 2019 season.

The CAB will compensate for this extension by commensurately shortening the validity of the next certificate (if awarded as anticipated) to expire November 11, 2023 rather than 5 years from its issue date, such that the total duration of this and the next certification period is not lengthened beyond 10 years.

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