



Sian Morgan
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Sent by email

Date: 23/08/2017

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement v2.1 GCR-7.5.6 for US Atlantic spiny dogfish

Dear Sian Morgan,

I write with reference to your submission on 22/08/2017 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow:

SCS requests a variation from GCRV2.1 7.5.6 to extend the current valid certificate for the US Atlantic Spiny Dogfish Fishery beyond 5 years by 6 months, from its current expiration the 24th of August 2017 to March 1, 2018.

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 fishery is currently in compliance with the MSC standard, as concluded by the results of the 4th surveillance and is currently undergoing re-assessment.
- The fishery entered re-assessment under process CRV2.0, which introduces new requirements for defining the unit of assessment and unit of certification. The new requirements demanded a revision of the definition of UoC used in the first full assessment.

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

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- 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

