



Jennifer Humberstone
Scientific Certification Systems
2000 Powell Street
Suite 600, Emeryville
United States
94608

Sent by email

Date: 01/06/2018

Dear Jennifer Humberstone,

I write with reference to your submission on 29/05/2018 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow:

A variation to the Annex PF requirements for conducting a de novo PSA for Principle 1 species that trigger the RBF (Requirements Table PF1 and PF4), and proposes that we instead be permitted to review and use as appropriate the results of the PSA conducted in the fall of 2017 to evaluate Northern shortfin squid as a Main Secondary species under the same fishery certificate for longfin inshore squid.

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:

- SCS recently completed a full assessment of longfin inshore squid as a target species for the US Northeast small mesh bottom otter trawl fleet. Under this assessment, Northern shortfin squid qualified as a Main Secondary species, and the RBF was used. The assessment team followed the RBF assessment requirements found in Annex PF, including the conduct of a PSA in accordance with Annex PF4 requirements, in the fall of 2017.
- An expedited assessment was announced immediately following certification, and the on-site for this expedited assessment will take place less than 1 year after the initial PSA was conducted.

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

- In consultation with stakeholders, review the findings of the PSA that was conducted to assess this species in P2 during the site visit for the assessment, updating it if necessary given the requirements for scoring P1 species as stated in PF 4.4.3.

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