



Billy Hynes  
Dochfour Business Centre  
Dochfour  
United Kingdom  
IV3 8GY

Sent by email

Date: 30/03/2016

**Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement v1.3 CR 24.2.3.3 for Canada northern and striped shrimp**

Dear Billy Hynes,

I write with reference to your updated submission on 8 March 2016 (revised 30 March 2016) of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow:

The Public Comment Draft Report to be submitted to the MSC beyond the allowed 9 month limit from the site visit, and beyond the additional 30 days to this 9 month limit (24.2.3.1), without following the steps detailed in 24.2.3.3 b & c.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to 24.2.3.3 is 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:

- The fishery assessment has faced delays owing to the fact that the lead assessor and principle 3 expert withdrew from the team in October 2015 (during which period, no progress was made on the reassessment report).
- This resulted in replacements being required for both positions, and for those individuals to be required to initiate the process of drafting the report.
- Delays were also noted during the period of transition from Intertek Fisheries Certification to Acoura Marine as the fishery's CAB.

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

- Evidence of progress can be provided.
- The team will assess any new information provided following all steps from scoring the fishery (27.10) to peer review (27.14) against the MSC requirements currently in use in this assessment.



If you have any questions regarding this response, please do not hesitate to contact Shaun McLennan the Fisheries Assessment Manager for this fishery either by email ([shaun.mclennan@msc.org](mailto:shaun.mclennan@msc.org)) or phone 0207 246 8934.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Megan Atcheson'.

Megan Atcheson  
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CC: ASI, lead auditor