



Amanda Stern-Pirlot  
MRAG Americas, Inc (MRAG)  
10051 5th Street, Suite 105  
St Petersburg  
United States  
33702

**Sent by email**

Date: 11/09/2018

**Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement v2.0 FCR-7.24.6 for Pacific hake mid-water trawl**

Dear Amanda Stern-Pirlot,

I write with reference to your submission on 10/09/2018 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow:

That the Pacific Hake fishery be eligible for reduced reassessment following the site visit although there are two open conditions in the Canadian UoC (none in the US UoC), on the basis that the two remaining conditions in the Canadian UoC are closed at 4th surveillance.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to v2.0 FCR-7.24.6 state:

A fishery is eligible for reduced assessment if:

- a. The fishery was covered under the previous certification or scope extension;
- b. The fishery has no conditions remaining after the 3rd surveillance audit, and
- c. The CAB confirms that all standard related stakeholder comments have been addressed by the 3rd surveillance audit

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:**

- This fishery has a long history within the MSC process and is a good low-risk example of where the reduced reassessment process could be beneficial achieving significant savings in cost and time without compromising the rigor of the assessment.
- One of the conditions could have been closed within a week of the 3rd surveillance audit but was deferred for the sake of expediency at the time.
- The Pacific Hake fishery comprises two UoCs—Canada and the US. The US UoC has no open conditions and was recertified the first time with no conditions at all.

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

- In order to proceed with a reduced reassessment, the CAB shall produce a report for the MSC website confirming all conditions are closed by the 4th surveillance audit. Otherwise, a full reassessment will need to be conducted.

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

