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**Sent by email**

Date: 17/12/2018

**Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement v2.0 FCR-7.23.18 for South Brittany sardine purse seine**

Dear Macarena Garcia,

I write with reference to your submission on 04/12/2018 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow:

Surveillance report will be submitted one month after current deadline of the 19th January 2019, postponing the deadline to the 19th of February 2019.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to v2.0 FCR-7.23.18 state:

This Surveillance Report shall be forwarded to the MSC within 60 days of completing the audit, for publication on the MSC website

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 remote audit was carried out the 19th of November.
- During the interviews carried out with the client and scientists, some relevant issues were highlighted in relation to the latest ICES advice (ICES, 2018).
- Some members of the ICES-WGHANSA have recognised that some errors detected could alter the outcome of the sardine stock status and reference points, in particular errors on the catch vector from 2013 to 2017 (up to 17% in 2016; the population dynamic model in used is known to be highly sensitive to the catch vector).
- The team members have been in close contact with members of the WG and they want the CAB to take this new information into account.
- In order to do that they have to run the assessment model again with the new data, sharing the conclusive results with the team within a month.
- The referred stakeholders will have to send the updated information in the MSC Template for Stakeholders Input to be considered by the team.
- To conclude, the team is requesting the time extension to cover the following points:
  - Evaluate the ICES update of the model if relevant.
  - Re-score Principle 1 based on the updated information.
  - Work on the harmonization with the overlapping fishery (South Brittany sardine fishery).
  - Coordinate publication of both surveillance reports (South Brittany sardine fishery and Bay of Biscay fishery).

**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.

- The report is submitted by the 19th February 2019.
- Stakeholders are informed.

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