

Eng Pedro Landa

Organizacion Agropecuaria Internacional

Sent by email

Date: 3rd November 2011

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC scheme requirement FCM v6.1: 5.3.1



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Dear Eng. Pedro Landa,

I write with reference to your submission on 3rd November 2011 of a request for variation to the MSC scheme requirement to allow an extension of the existing Patagonian scallops fishery certificate until the 7th of June 2012.

As you are aware, the FCM procedures defined in Section 5.3 are integral to ensuring all MSC accredited certification 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 scheme.

MSC notes the factors presented in your letter supporting your request, including that:

- the current certificate expires on 7th December, 2011, and
- a second on-site visit was undertaken in September to conduct a new set of interviews and SICA workshop in order to adapt previous and current information into FAM Default Assessment Tree and RBF.

The MSC also notes that the FCM allowances defined in Section 7.6 do not currently apply in this case since no Objections have so far been filed for this fishery. MSC also notes that the reassessment of the fishery appears to have started around four months later than recommended by MSC where continuous certification is desired (see FCM v6 section 7.1).

Given the rationale provided and the revised timeline already published for the fishery, the MSC is willing to grant a variation to the scheme requirement in this case subject to the following conditions:

- A maximum certification extension up to 30 March 2012, allowing only a maximum 30 days beyond the current assumed end-February certification date in the revised re-assessment timeline (assuming no objections are received).
- The fishery has made the improvements required by the conditions set in the current certificates.
- The fishery is expected to continue to comply with the MSC standard during the extended period of certification (and this expectation continues to be confirmed at each step of the reassessment process).

- Stakeholders are informed about the change to the duration of the certificate, and what effects this may have on the assessment or on the supply chain.

If you have any questions regarding this response, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best regards,



Dr Daniel Hoggarth
Marine Stewardship Council
cc: ASI