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Jo Gascoigne

56 High St,
Lymington,
Hants,
SO41 9AH
UK

Sent by email

Date: 19/10/2012

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement [fill in]

Dear Jo Gascoigne,

I write with reference to your submission on 5/10/2012 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow that seed collection area of The Conwy Bay could be added to the existing UoC without further assessment.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to the Confirmation of Scope 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 in your letter supporting your request, including:

- The seed collection site is close to the mussel lays and within the boundaries of the geographical / oceanographic / ecological area of the Menai Strait. The audit team therefore concluded that taking mussels from this area does not constitute translocation and therefore a separate new assessment of Principle 1 is not required.
- The seed collection site is within the same ecosystem as the mussel lays and under the same conservation management system and therefore collecting seed from this area is in fact identical, from the point of view the analysis for Principles 2 and 3, to the movement and harvesting of mussels within the Menai Strait itself.



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Given the rationale provided, the MSC is willing to grant a variation to the CR in this case.

MSC notes the CAB's intent to present the rationale for the change in the Year 2 Surveillance Audit report, to be circulated to the fishery's stakeholders, and to allow stakeholders to have an additional 30-day period to submit comments about the proposal.

If you have any questions regarding this response, please do not hesitate to contact Sergio Cansado on +44 (0)207 246 8937 Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Dan Hoggarth". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dan" being more prominent.

Dan Hoggarth
Fisheries Oversight Director
Marine Stewardship Council

cc: ASI, lead auditor