



Julie McDonald
SAI Global (SAI)

Sent by email

Date: 08/11/2018

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement v2.0 FCR-7.3.2 for Omega Protein Corporation U.S. Atlantic menhaden purse seine

Dear Julie McDonald,

I write with reference to your submission on 02/11/2018 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow:

SAI Global to provide the Final Report to MSC within 21 months (i.e. 3 additional months) of the full assessment announcement, which will be by March 6th, 2019, instead of by December 6th, 2018.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to v2.0 FCR-7.3.2 state:

7.3.2: If the period from the full assessment announcement to the receipt of the Final Report by the MSC is more than 18 months, the CAB shall withdraw the fishery from the MSC assessment process

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 need for this extension to allowable timeframes is purely administrative and is necessary in order to complete the relevant assessment stages without being required to withdraw the fishery.
- Several factors have led to the unforeseen delays in completing the necessary assessment steps, that could not have been predicted at the outset of this assessment.
- The fishery has now progressed to the point where a draft report has been provided to the MSC Peer Review College for review (Report provided 23rd October 2018).

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;
- If the new deadline (6 March 2019) is not met the UoC must withdraw;
- Stakeholders are informed, including an updated timeline on the MSC website.

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