



Polly Burns  
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United Kingdom  
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**Sent by email**

Date: 17/05/2019

**Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement v2.3 GCR-7.5.6 for Canada Scotian Shelf Northern prawn trawl**

Dear Polly Burns,

I write with reference to your submission on 08/05/2019 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow:

Extension of the certificate from the 17th May 2019 to 17th August 2019 – representing an extension of 3 months (or the date of recertification, whichever is sooner).

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to v2.3 GCR-7.5.6 state:

The CAB shall issue fishery certificates with a maximum validity period of 5 years from the issue date

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 fishery has moved from V1.3 certification requirements to V2.0 certification requirements.
- This has implications for the level of information required for the assessment and as such the client had to prepare additional information to support the scoring against V2.0.
- To maintain certification and avoid the issues for the supply chain a certificate extension of 3 months is requested to give the assessment the chance to conclude.

**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.
- Stakeholders are informed.
- ECert is updated to reflect changes, including providing a certificate covering the period from the end of the current certificate to the 17th August 2019.

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