



Polly Burns  
Acoura  
6 Redheughs Rigg  
Edinburgh  
EH12 9DQ  
Sent by email

Date: 8/12/2016

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement FCR v2.0 FCR 7.23.18 for the North West Atlantic Canada Longline Swordfish fishery

Dear Polly,

I write with reference to your submission on 5/12/2018 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to extend the deadline of the submission of the Surveillance Report by 5 weeks from the current deadline of 8 December 2016.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to the submission of surveillance reports 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:

- There have been technical queries relating to these fisheries' surveillance audits, that have required clarification and input from the MSC to ensure correct process is followed
- There have been significant stakeholder inputs into the process

Given the rationale provided, the MSC is willing to grant a variation to the CR in this case, subject to the following condition;

- 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 made aware of the change



If you have any questions regarding this response, please do not hesitate to contact, the relevant Fisheries Assessment Manager.

Marine Stewardship Council

cc: ASI, lead auditor