



Polly Burns
Acoura Marine
6 Redheughs Rigg
Edinburgh
United Kingdom
EH12 9DQ

Sent by email

Date: 12/01/2017

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement v2.1 GCR-7.5.6 for New Zealand albacore tuna troll

Dear Polly Burns,

I write with reference to your submission on 10/01/2017 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow:

To extend the certificate for the New Zealand Albacore Tuna troll fishery by 1 month from 31 January 2017 to 28 February 2017 to allow for the objections period to complete.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to v2.1 GCR-7.5.6 state:

The CAB shall issue fisheries 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 was originally certified on 17 May 2011 and entered reassessment in February 2016.
- The current certificate was extended during re-assessment following the WCPFC harmonisation meeting in April 2016
- The requested extra time will allow the objection consultation period to complete whilst leaving an unbroken period of certification
- The fishery is at the Final Report stage, and the assessment team can confirm the fishery meets the requirements of the MSC standard and will be re-certified subject to no objection from stakeholder

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

- 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 date accepted in the variation response

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



Marine Stewardship Council