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Sent by email

Date: 12 June 2015

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement 7.5.9 for the Cornwall sardine fishery

Dear Kat

I write with reference to your submission on the 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 2015 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement CR 7.5.9 to extend the certificate validity of this fishery until 1<sup>st</sup> May, 2016.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to certificate validity 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 delay in the release of FCR 2.0 meant that MEC fell behind on their originally planned assessment timelines for this fishery.
- In addition, MEC recently underwent a switch of accreditation from the previous entity MEP. The accreditation decision from ASI was not given until the end of March, 2015.
- Changes in 2.0 process, particularly the use of the client check list, meant that the start of the re-assessment process was then further delayed until June, 2015.
- ME Certification Ltd intends to complete the re-assessment within the requested certificate expiry of the 01st May 2016.
- At the time of announcing the reassessment, MEC is unaware of any reasons why this fishery is likely to fail the process.

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

- That all stakeholders are notified that the certificate validity for this fishery will be extended until May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016.

If you have any questions regarding this response, please do not hesitate to contact Robert Lefébure, the Fisheries Assessment Manager for this fishery either by email, [Robert.lefebure@msc.org](mailto:Robert.lefebure@msc.org) or phone +44 (0)20 7246 8935.

Best regards,



Dan Hoggarth

Fisheries Oversight director  
Marine Stewardship Council