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Paul Knapman  
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Dartmouth  
Nova Scotia  
B3A 4S5  
Canada

Sent by email

Date: 19/06/2012

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement 27.22.3.1

Dear Paul Knapman,

I write with reference to your submission on 12/06/2012 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow the annual audit for the Canada northern and striped shrimp fisheries in Shrimp Fishing Areas (SFA) 2, 3, and 4 to be outside of the annual reporting cycle and to include within the same audit the amended certifications for the Canada northern shrimp trawl fishery in SFA 5, 6, and 7, as well as the northern shrimp fisheries in SFA 1.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to annual surveillance audit schedule 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:

- Maximising efficiencies in time and cost for the clients and the management bodies associated with these fisheries by allowing the audit cycle for the fishery in SFA 1 to be synchronised with the other certified SFAs thus reducing the need for separate annual audits.
- Fitting more appropriately with the annual stock assessment reporting cycle for these fisheries (i.e., the audits will take place soon after the stock assessments are released for the DFO managed fisheries in SFA 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 and NAFO managed fisheries in SFA 1 and 7).

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

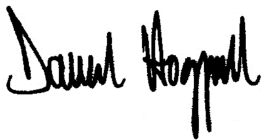


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- IMM will perform the audits in November 2012 (as opposed to the original certification date of 20 March 2013 and 24 June 2012 for SFA 1 and SFAs 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7, respectively).
- Other future audits for these fisheries will take place annually in November.

If you have any questions regarding this response, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "David Hoagland".

Marine Stewardship Council

cc: ASI