



Sabine Daume
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Sent by email

Date: 1/20/2020

Dear Sabine Daume,

I write with reference to your submission on 08/01/2020 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow:

To carry over the 2 swordfish conditions (Condition 6 and 7 for PI 1.1.2 and 1.2.2 respectively) assigned for Walker Seafoods tuna and swordfish longline fishery into the re-assessment.

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:

- As part of the CAB-wide variation for rescoring tuna fisheries and aligning condition milestones, Walker seafood tuna and swordfish fishery was listed as part of the variance but only for WCPO yellowfin and albacore.
- Walker seafood (now named Australian ETBF tuna) has South Pacific swordfish as a UoC but this was not part of the CAB-wide variation.
- There are no other Pacific swordfish fisheries currently certified or in assessment and therefore would not be under any harmonisation requirement per se.
- It is proposed to carry the 2 swordfish conditions (Condition 6 and 7 for PI 1.1.2 and 1.2.2 respectively) assigned for Walker Seafoods tuna and swordfish longline fishery into the re-assessment.
- The proposed deadline to close out of Conditions is at the first surveillance audit (2021) following the re-assessment in 2020.
- This deadline will align with the project plan of the Australian Research Council (ARC) funded project on revisions and further developments of the billfish harvest strategy

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

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: Assurance Services International