



Billy Hynes
Acoura Marine
6 Redheughs Rigg
Edinburgh
United Kingdom
EH12 9DQ

Sent by email

Date: 01/12/2017

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement v2.1 GCR-7.5.6 for Fiji albacore tuna longline

Dear Billy Hynes,

I write with reference to your submission on 06/11/2017 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow:

The Fiji albacore tuna longline certificate is due to expire 12th December 2017. Acoura request a certificate extension until 31st January 2018.

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:

- Certificate expires on 12 December 2017
- The site visit took place in February 2017, later than the 4th anniversary of certification in December 2016
- Reasons for delays to starting the re-assessment and information gathering are provided in the variation request. These include adverse weather to travel to site visit, lack of availability of stakeholders and delays in receiving information.
- The PCDR was published on 4th November 2017
- The extension to the certificate expiry date will allow the re-assessment process to complete.

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

- 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 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: 31 January 2018.

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