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Carolina Medina Foucher
Organización Internacional Agropecuaria S.A.

Sent by email

Date: 13/05/2014

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement 27.22.3.1 for Argentine hoki fishery

Dear Carolina Medina Foucher,

I write with reference to your submission on 29th April 2014 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow for a two month delay to the on-site surveillance audit visit.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to the timing of the annual surveillance audit 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 results of the Argentine hoki research season will be available in July.
- The sustainability of fishery is unaffected by this change and delay in timing of audit will allow consideration of latest management advice sooner than existing schedule.

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 does not have any reason to believe the fishery is not in compliance with MSC certification requirements.

If you have any questions regarding this response, please do not hesitate to contact Megan Atcheson, the Fisheries Assessment Manager for this fishery either by email megan.atcheson@msc.org or phone +44 (0)207 246 8678.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Daniel Hoggarth'.

Dr Daniel Hoggarth
Fisheries Oversight Director
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cc: ASI, lead auditor