



Sabine Daume  
Scientific Certification Systems  
2000 Powell Street  
Suite 600, Emeryville  
United States  
94608

**Sent by email**

Date: 07/11/2016

**Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement v2.0 FCR-7.23.18 for Heard Island and McDonald Islands (HIMI) toothfish**

Dear Sabine Daume,

I write with reference to your submission on 02/11/2016 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow:

To extend the deadline of the submission of the 4th surveillance report from 10 November 2016 to 10 January 2017

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to v2.0 FCR-7.23.18 state:

This Surveillance Report shall be forwarded to the MSC within 60 days of completing the audit, for publication on the MSC website

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:**

- The MSC is currently considering a proposal from SCS regarding the remaining conditions under Principle 1 that related to the toothfish fishery which is a straddling stock also fished by a fishery under French management
- Harmonization meetings with the CAB of the overlapping French Fishery is occurring to address P1 issues, with the French Fishery undertaking its surveillance in early November 2016
- A request is asked to allow an extension for an additional 2 months to allow for harmonization meeting with the French CAB to take place as suggested by MSC

**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.

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

