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**Sent by email**

Date: 12/08/2021

**Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement vn/a GCR 7.5.6 for Irikla Reservoir perch and pikeperch fishery**

Dear Amanda Stern-Pirlot,

I write with reference to your submission on 11/08/2021 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow:

A short extension of the certificate expiration date is requested to allow the client more time to complete their Client Action Plan.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to vn/a GCR 7.5.6 state:

The CAB shall issue fishery 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:**

- There are two new conditions on this fishery as a result of reassessment and the Fishery Client has requested additional time to develop the Client Action Plan.
- Developing the Client Action Plan requires coordination with a government research institution, which has been delayed slightly by the pandemic.

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

- The extended deadline is 6 December 2021.
- When requested by MSC, 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.
- Ecert is updated to reflect changes, including providing a certificate covering the period from the end of the current certificate to the extended deadline of the 6 December 2021.

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