



Amanda Stern-Pirlot
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Sent by email

Date: 31/08/2022

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement v2.2 FCP-7.29.1 for Gulf of Maine lobster fishery

Dear Amanda Stern-Pirlot,

I write with reference to your submission on 18/08/2022 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow:

To forego an expedited audit with the intent to consider new information as part of the assessment/disputes process already underway

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to v2.2 FCP-7.29.1 state:

The CAB shall complete an expedited audit if the CAB becomes aware of changes to the circumstances of the fishery and/or of new information that may cause:

- a. A PI score falling below 60.
- b. A Principle score falling below an aggregate 80 score due to the changes to the score for 1 or more PIs.
- c. A change in scope (as per 7.4, 7.5.2 or 7.5.3)

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:

- Efficiency would be improved and the process would be more straightforward if this new information is part of the objections proceeding, instead of a separate process (Expedited Audit)

In this case the rationale is insufficient for the MSC to grant a variation to the CR. This request is therefore declined.

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