



Kat Collinson
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Sent by email

Date: 12/05/2017

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement v2.0 FCR-7.4.10 for Walker Seafood Australian albacore, yellowfin tuna, and swordfish longline

Dear Kat Collinson,

I write with reference to your submission on 20/04/2017 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow:

Change the Unit of Assessment (UoA) for the mahi mahi stock boundary from the geographical area of the Western Central Pacific Ocean to the Australian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to v2.0 FCR-7.4.10 state:

7.4.10 The CAB shall not change the uoA and UoC during the assessment unless:

7.4.10.1 The UoA is announced provisionally in the initial announcement and confirmed later in conformance with 7.10.2

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:

- A mahi mahi stock has not been defined in the WCPO. The original assumption therefore was that the stock would be throughout the WCPO.
- Research by the assessment team indicates that other pelagic fishes, such as tropical tuna, in the WCPO appear to have regional structures to their stocks.
- Given that: 1) pelagic fish (YFT, BET) similar to dolphinfish have small-scale stock structure within WCPO; 2) dolphinfish tagged in Australia are on average recaptured within 90km; 3) dolphinfish are short lived which reduces their ability to disperse, the assessment team would like to redefine the assessment scale and reduce it to the Australian EEZ.
- This change will not affect the sustainability of the fishery. Additionally, scoring will not be affected by this change, nor is an impact on stakeholders anticipated, due to the reduction in the size of the assessment from scored at the site visit.

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

- Stakeholders are made aware of the change, including those who contributed to the RBF scoring at the site visit.



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