



Polly Burns
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United Kingdom
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Sent by email

Date: 11/01/2017

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement v2.0 FCR-7.23.18 for North West Atlantic Canada longline swordfish

Dear Polly Burns,

I write with reference to your submission on 09/01/2017 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow:

Surveillance report will be submitted 5 weeks after current deadline of 12th January 2017, making the new deadline the 16th February 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:

- An extension was previously granted for the submission of these surveillance reports, to allow for significant stakeholder input and technical queries requiring clarification from the MSC.
- The results of these clarifications are pending and we therefore request that a further 5 weeks to complete the reports is granted.
- This is in line with the timescale being aimed for by the 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



Marine Stewardship Council