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Adrienne Vincent

Sustainable Seafood Program

Scientific Certification Systems

2000 Powell St., Suite 600 | Emeryville, CA 94608 USA

Sent by email

Date: 8th June 2012

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement 27.22.3.1

Dear Ms Vincent,

I write with reference to your submission on 1st June 2012 of a request for a variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow the delay of surveillance audits of the Canada Pacific sablefish, the US Sablefish and the US Halibut fisheries until September. This will delay the audits by between one and two months, but align them all so they can be conducted at the same time.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to regular surveillance audits 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 in your letter supporting your request, including:

- The need to minimize burden on managers involved in all three fisheries
- The revised audit date allowing for increased participation by those involved with the fishery.

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

- Stakeholders are advised in advance of the revised audit dates for these fisheries.



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- The fisheries conform to all other requirements within the CR.

If you have any questions regarding this response, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Dan Hoggarth".

Dr Dan Hoggarth

Fisheries Oversight Director
Marine Stewardship Council

cc: ASI, lead auditor