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**Sent by email**

Date: 10/10/2019

**Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement v2.0 FCR-7.23.18 for Walker Seafood Australian albacore, yellowfin tuna, and swordfish longline**

Dear Sabine Daume,

I write with reference to your submission on 10/10/2019 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow:

We propose to finalise the report after the ERA has been made public within 4 weeks after the due date (29th November 2019). This is also the time when the ACDR for the re-assessment will be re-leased.

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:**

- Several vital documents relevant to the surveillance audit are still to be made public
- This includes an environmental risk assessment (ERA) which will form the basis for the assessment towards meeting conditions 8 and 9 which are due to be closed out during this surveillance audit.
- Allowing the extra 4 weeks will allow for full re-scoring of the relevant PI if the conditions can be closed.
- In addition, the extra time will allow the inclusion of the v2.0 rescore of yellowfin and south Pacific albacore

**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