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Sent by email

Date: 14 April 2011



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Subject: Request for variation to the MSC scheme requirement FCM v6 section 5.3.1 for the US North Pacific halibut fishery

Dear Sabine,

I write with reference to your submission on 25 March 2011 of a request for variation to the MSC scheme requirement on the maximum period of certificate validity by three months.

As you are aware, the FCM procedures relating to the duration of certification under section 5.3 are integral to ensuring all MSC accredited certification 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 scheme.

MSC notes the factors presented in your letter supporting your request, including:

- Delay required to release of PCDR for alignment with timelines for scientific and management cycles, as well as for stakeholder input.
- SCS believes there is no substantive impact on the assessment or other requirements, other than to improve the integrity of the PCDR.

Given the rationale provided, the MSC is willing to grant a variation to the scheme requirement in this case subject to the following condition:

- Stakeholders are informed about the change to the duration of the certificate, and what effects this may have on the assessment or on the supply chain.

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

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Maylynn Nunn', with a stylized, cursive script.

Maylynn Nunn
Senior Fisheries Certification Manager

Marine Stewardship Council
cc: ASI