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Sent by email

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French Polynesia albacore, yellowfin and swordfish longline fishery, request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirements.

- V2.3 - FCP-7.16.3 - The CAB shall draft conditions to result in improved performance to at least the 80 level within a period set by the CAB but no longer than the term of the certification.
- V2.3 - FCP-7.29.16.4 - If a condition is not closed by its deadline, the CAB shall:
 - a. Consider progress as inadequate.
 - b. Apply the suspension or withdrawal of certification requirements of the GCR.
 - c. Inform the fishery client that they cannot enter the same UoC(s), or any entity in the UoC(s), into full assessment under either the same or an alternative name unless the cause for suspension has been addressed

Dear Mathias Deleau,

I write with reference to your submission on 29/02/2024 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirements (CR) to allow:

The CAB is proposing to extend the deadline (February 2024) of Conditions 12 and 13 of the French Polynesia fishery by one year (12 months).

This condition deadline was harmonized with overlapping certified MSC fisheries, following the two Covid-19 derogations issued by MSC in March 2020 and March 2021. The SWP SWO stock was certified for this fishery in 2021, following a scope extension.

The requirements 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 one-year extension to the deadline for these conditions is expected to enable the eligibility requirements for early application of Section SE to be met.
- The French Polynesia fishery management authority has issued a letter of commitment for the development of a workplan for Southwest Pacific swordfish and a similar letter is due to be issued by the Australia fishery management authority.
- The latest reassessment report, which is at Client and Peer Review Draft Report stage, considers the Southwest Pacific swordfish stock to be in a good condition, reaching a score of 90 under PI 1.1.1.

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

- Conditions 12 and 13 may be extended by 12 months with a revised deadline of February 2025.
- The deadline for these conditions should be harmonised with overlapping fisheries.



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: Assurance Services International