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Sent by email

Date: 8 March 2013

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement 27.22.3.1 for the HIMI toothfish fishery

Dear Sabine,

I write with reference to your submission on 08/03/2013 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow the delay of the surveillance audit for the above-named fishery until June 2013.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to completing the activities corresponding to the designated surveillance level within 12, 24, 36 and 48 months respectively of the date of certificate award 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:


- There is one management and client group for three fisheries – HIMI toothfish, Australia icefish and MI toothfish and having one surveillance audit will mean efficiency gains in travel cost and time if the audits are combined and reduce the burden on fisheries management and scientist staff time.
- The availability of key staff for on-site visits can be accommodated.

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

- Combined surveillance audits are held no later than 22 June each year from this point forward.
- 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 fishery standard.

If you have any questions regarding this response, please do not hesitate to contact Stephanie Good, the Fisheries Assessment Manager for this fishery, either by email stephanie.good@msc.org or phone 020 7246 8926.

Best regards,



Dan Hoggarth
Fisheries Oversight Director

Marine Stewardship Council
cc: ASI, lead auditor