



Dr Sian Morgan
SCS Global Services

Sent by email

Date: 03/08/2015

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Fisheries Certification Requirement v2.0 7.23.18 for Gulf of California Sardine, Mexico

Dear Dr. Morgan,

I write with reference to your submission on 17 July 2015 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow for a two month delay in the submission of the surveillance report.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to the timing of report submissions 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 extension will allow the results from the latest stock assessment of the Gulf of California sardine stock to be peer reviewed and incorporated into the surveillance audit report.
- The peer reviewed stock assessment is in response to a new condition opened on PI 1.1.1 at the 3rd surveillance audit.
- The fishery has not been open this year due to concerns about stock status, indicating the management measure in place are precautionary and working.
- Other aspects of the fishery remain in compliance with the standard and the delay in publishing the surveillance report are not expected to have any material implications for outcome of the surveillance audit cycle, particularly since the fishery is not opening prior to the stock status report being reviewed and available.

Given the rationale provided, the MSC is willing to grant a variation to the CR in this case.

If you have any questions regarding this response, please do not hesitate to contact Megan Atcheson the Fisheries Assessment Manager for this fishery either by email megan.atcheson@msc.org or phone +44 (0)207 246 8978.



Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel Hoggarth".

Dr Daniel Hoggarth
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cc: ASI, lead auditor