

# Marine Stewardship Council - Variation Request

<b>Date submitted to MSC</b>	6th November 2017
<b>Name of CAB</b>	Acoura Marine
<b>Fishery Name/CoC Certificate Number</b>	Fiji albacore tuna longline
<b>Lead Auditor/Programme Manager</b>	Jo Akroyd/Billy Hynes
<b>Variation prepared by:</b>	Billy Hynes with Jo Akroyd
<b>Scheme requirement(s) for which variation requested</b>	GCR V2.1 7.5.6 The CAB shall issue fisheries certificates with a maximum validity period of 5 years from the issue date.
<b>Is this variation sought in order to fulfil IPI requirements (FCR 7.4.14)?</b>	No

<b>1. Proposed variation</b>	
The Fiji albacore tuna longline certificate is due to expire 12 <sup>th</sup> December 2017. Acoura request a certificate extension until 31 <sup>st</sup> January 2018.	
<b>2. Rationale/Justification</b>	
<p>The site visit took place in February 2017, later than the 4<sup>th</sup> anniversary of certification in December 2016. This delay was due to lack of availability of key stakeholders in December (because of holidays) and to issues with cyclones on the island making it unsafe to travel.</p> <p>Further to this, there were delays in information required for the assessment being provided to the team due to the key data person at the Fiji Ministry of Fisheries suffering from health issues.</p> <p>The Public Comment Draft Report was published on the 4<sup>th</sup> November 2017 and the additional time requested allows procedural consultation time and for team responses to potential stakeholder comments as well.</p> <p>Acoura have no concerns about the status of the fishery in relation to MSC certification.</p>	
<b>3. Implications for assessment (required for fisheries assessment variations only)</b>	
No implications.	
<b>4. Have the stakeholders of this fishery assessment been informed of this request? (required for fisheries assessment variations only)</b>	No
<b>5. Further Comments</b>	
N/A	