

# Marine Stewardship Council - Variation Request

Date submitted to MSC	21 April 2016
Name of CAB	SCS Global Services
Fishery Name/CoC Certificate Number	Western Australian Rock Lobster Fishery
Lead Auditor/Programme Manager	Dr. Sabine Daume
Scheme requirement(s) for which variation requested	CR v 1.3 7.5.9
Is this variation sought in order to fulfil IPI requirements (FCR 7.4.14)?	No

## 1. Proposed variation

*Variance to the maximum period of validity of a fishery certificate for an additional 6 months. Currently the fishery certificate expires after 11 March 2017; this request would extend the validity of the fishery certificate through 11 September 2017.*

## 2. Rationale/Justification

*The fishery was first certified in March 2012 and has successfully completed their 4<sup>th</sup> annual surveillance audit in April 2016.*

*The re-assessment process is likely to be announced in early June with tentative onsite meeting dates during the week of 18<sup>th</sup> July 2016. A vital aspect of the re-assessment will be a review of the fishery's latest stock assessment and the quota setting for the coming 2017 season. The stock assessment relies on 12 months of data collected from the fishery up to 15 January 2016. The data has to be received from fishers, which can take up to 6 weeks (i.e. end of February 16). It then has to be checked, corrected and processed before it can be used in the fishery's stock assessment model, by which time it will be mid May 2016. The model outputs then have to be checked and verified, which will be completed by early June 2016. The model results are then presented to the Rock Lobster Industry at the annual management meetings (AMMs) that are held in mid-June. The quota setting process is normally completed within two to three weeks of the AMMs, which takes completion of the process to early/mid-July 2016. Additionally, staff involved with the stock assessment and quota setting will not have time to participate in an onsite visit by SCS Global until about mid-July.*

*The Client of the Fishery (the Western Rock Lobster Council) and the Department of Fisheries understands that due to the completion date of the stock assessment (July 2016), there will not be sufficient time to complete the fishery's re-certification within the current certification period.*

<b>3. Implications for assessment (required for fisheries assessment variations only)</b>	
<i>None. Stakeholder will be informed about the onsite meetings location and dates when the re-assessment of the fishery is announced.</i>	
<b>4. Have the stakeholders of this fishery assessment been informed of this request? (required for fisheries assessment variations only)</b>	If this variance is granted stakeholders will be informed about the extended validity of the certificate.
<b>5. Further Comments</b>	
<i>Please include any further relevant information.</i>	