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Sent by email

Date: 07/03/2017

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement v2.1 GCR-7.5.6 for Patagonian scallop

Dear Carolina Medina Foucher,

I write with reference to your submission on 21/02/2017 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow:

Request for 6 months extension of the certificate expiry (from 25 March 2017 to 21 September 2017).

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to v2.1 GCR-7.5.6 state:

The CAB shall issue fisheries certificates with a maximum validity period of 5 years from the issue date

These 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:

- The fishery was certified on 26 March 2012 and the certificate will expire on 25 March 2017.
- The re-assessment was delayed due to the switch to use of Fisheries Certification Requirements v2.0 and change in assessment team members able to conduct the assessment. The re-assessment process is currently at the Peer Review stage and a request for new stakeholder information was published on 12 January 2017.
- A 6-month certificate extension to 21 September 2017 is requested to ensure that the fishery will still be covered by a certificate during the re-assessment process.
- The CAB confirms that the fishery is in compliance with the MSC Fisheries Standard.

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

- 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 Fisheries Standard.
- Stakeholders are informed.
- ECert is updated to reflect changes, including providing a certificate covering the period from the end of the current certificate to the date accepted in the variation response.

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: Accreditation Services International