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**Sent by email**

Date: 07/09/2017

**Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement v2.0 FCR-7.9.1 for Falkland Island toothfish**

Dear Jim Andrews,

I write with reference to your submission on 06/09/2017 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow:

It is proposed that the re-assessment site visit (due to take place the week commencing November 13th 2017) to the Falkland Islands will be carried out by one member of the assessment team, the Lead Assessor, rather than all 3 members of the team. The other members of the team will participate in the site visit from a remote location.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to v2.0 FCR-7.9.1 state:

7.9.1 The team shall carry out the on-site assessment as planned. The team shall:

7.9.1.1 Conduct stakeholder interviews to make sure that the team is aware of any concerns or information that stakeholders may have: a. The team shall allow private interviews with the team for stakeholders who request one; b. The team shall use any information provided in private in conformity with the confidentiality requirements in 4.4; c. If stakeholders do not wish or are not able to be interviewed, the team shall inform them that they may send written information to the team

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 Falkland Islands are remote and sending the whole team is cost prohibitive.
- One team member will be on site and linked up with local experts while off-site team members will participate in the audit remotely. The team has established links with many of the experts associated with this fishery that are based in the UK.
- The team are satisfied that all parties will be capable of participating in the audit and stakeholders will be informed prior to the site visit.

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

- CABs make clear that all members of the team are available to meet with stakeholders by virtual or other means, including at mutually convenient physical locations where it is shown that this would be necessary to effectively communicate key issues.



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