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Sent by email

Date: 26 July 2011

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC scheme requirement regarding the eligibility date for the BC pink salmon fishery

Dear Mr Devitt,

I write with reference to your submission on 24 June 2011 of a request for variation to the MSC scheme requirements (Policy Advisory 4 v2) to allow an extended eligibility period for the BC pink salmon fishery.

As you are aware, the MSC procedures relating to the setting of eligibility dates are integral to ensuring all MSC accredited certification 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 scheme.

MSC notes the factors presented in your letter supporting your request, including that:

- the publication of the Public Comment Draft Report (PCDR), i.e. the base line from which the eligibility date is measured, was delayed beyond the control of either the client of the Certification Body;
- there are no risks to the traceability system as product that was processed from the 2009 fishery (1 June 2009 onward).

MSC also notes the natural variability in run strength in this fishery, and the relative abundance of fish in the odd-year, 2009 run and the relative lack of fish in the 2010 run.

Given the rationale provided, the MSC is willing to grant a variation to the scheme requirement in this case. If you have any questions regarding this response, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Maylynn Nunn', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Maylynn Nunn,

Senior Fisheries Certification Manager

Marine Stewardship Council

cc: ASI