



Chrissie Sieben
Control Union Pesca Ltd
56 High Street
Lymington
United Kingdom
SO41 9AH

Sent by email

Date: 19/07/2018

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

Dear Chrissie Sieben,

I write with reference to your submission on 18/07/2018 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow:

The expiry date of the current certificate (MEC-F-018) to be extended by 4 months, from 2nd September 2018 until 2nd January 2019, to allow enough time for the recertification process to be completed without a lapse in certification for the clients of this fishery.

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 site visit had to be organised in February 2018 at the request of the client and stakeholders and this resulted in the compression of the assessment timelines.
- Further delays in data submissions from some stakeholders meant that the drafting of the assessment report took longer than initially planned for.

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