



Polly Burns
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EH12 9DQ

Sent by email

Date: 15/01/2019

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement v2.2 GCR-7.5.6 for Canada Scotian Shelf Northern prawn trawl

Dear Polly Burns,

I write with reference to your submission on 09/01/2019 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow:

Extension of the certificate expiry date from the 17th February 2019 to 17th May 2019 – representing an extension of 3 months.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to v2.2 GCR-7.5.6 state:

The CAB shall issue fishery 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 is transitioning from v1.3 to v2.0, which has taken longer than anticipated to prepare the necessary information for assessment
- An additional stakeholder comment period has been held due to the delay in publishing the PCDR by the 9 month deadline; the PCDR is now due in February 2019
- There are extenuating circumstances with respect to a team member that have resulting in a further delay to the assessment

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