



Jennifer Humberstone
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Sent by email

Date: 10/05/2018

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement v2.0 FCR-7.23.18 for Gulf of Maine lobster fishery

Dear Jennifer Humberstone,

I write with reference to your submission on 03/05/2018 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow:

SCS proposes a variation to the 60-day reporting requirement, such that the report be submitted within 3 months of the onsite visit: by June 28th, 2018.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to v2.0 FCR-7.23.18 state:

This Surveillance Report shall be forwarded to the MSC within 60 days of completing the audit, for publication on the MSC website

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:

- New information has indicated that changes to scoring is necessary under the ETP component, in regards to impacts on North Atlantic Right Whales (NARWs) in particular, that will result in new conditions.
- The assessment team has expended additional time to confer with the assessment teams with this overlapping concern, and to meet with stakeholders and evaluate and respond to submissions on this matter.
- The client needs time to develop an action plan, and obtain requisite government agency support as needed.

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.
- Extended deadline of 30 days.
- Stakeholders are informed.

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