



Hugh Jones
ME Certification Limited (MEC)
56 High Street
Lymington
United Kingdom
SO41 9AH

Sent by email

Date: 22/06/2017

Dear Hugh Jones,

I write with reference to your submission on 17/05/2017 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow:

MEC propose that this date to be extended the surveillance report publication date by one month to 18th June 2017. The last day of the Year 1 MSC surveillance assessment for this fishery was due to be submitted on 18th May 2017.

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 CAB requests a further month delay to publishing the surveillance report due to harmonisation with in-assessment blue whiting fisheries and more time needed to prepare client action plan and for the CAB to obtain letters of support from government departments to meet FCR-7.11.3.

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.
- The Surveillance report is published by the 18 June 2017.

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