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Sent by email

Date: 6 March 2013

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement 27.22.3.1 for SSMO Shetland inshore brown & velvet crab, lobster and scallop fishery

Dear Melissa,

I write with reference to your submission on 05/03/2013 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow the delay of the surveillance audit for the above-named fishery until April/May 2013.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to completing the activities corresponding to the designated surveillance level within 12, 24, 36 and 48 months respectively of the date of certificate award 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 in your letter supporting your request, including:

- Harmonise timing with the Shetland and Scottish Mainland Rope Grown mussel enhanced fishery surveillance, which has the same team leader
- Holding both surveillance audits together will reduce costs for each fishery client and limit stakeholder fatigue
- The assessment team leader is unavailable until April/May 2013 and it would be preferred to retain the team leader, who is familiar with the particulars of this assessment, throughout the surveillance programme

Given the rationale provided, the MSC is willing to grant a variation to the CR in this case subject to the following conditions:

- Combined surveillance audits are held no later than 26 June each year from this point forward.
- 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 fishery standard.

If you have any questions regarding this response, please do not hesitate to contact Stephanie Good, the Fisheries Assessment Manager for this fishery either by email stephanie.good@msc.org or phone 020 7246 8926.

Best regards,



Dan Hoggarth
Fisheries Oversight Director

Marine Stewardship Council
cc: ASI, lead auditor