



Marine House
1 Snow Hill
London
EC1A 2DH
United Kingdom
Tel: +44 (0)207 246 9800
Fax: +44 (0)207 246 9801

Paul Knapman
1801 Hollis Street
Suite 1220
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3N4
Canada

Sent by email

Date: 23.04.2013

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement CR 27.22.3.1 for the New Zealand albacore tuna troll fishery

Dear Paul Knapman,

I write with reference to your submission on 16.04.2013 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) extend the period between completing the annual on-site visit activities for the second annual surveillance audit for the New Zealand albacore tuna troll fishery.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to the timing of surveillance audits 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:

- Owing to the availability of key staff within the client group the site visit must be undertaken slightly outside of the annual reporting procedure.
- The fishery was certified on 16th May 2011 and the site visit is proposed for the week commencing 20th May 2013, a 4-day extension.

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

- Stakeholders are kept informed through this process.

If you have any questions regarding this response, please do not hesitate to contact Maylynn Nunn, the Fisheries Assessment Manager for this fishery either by email maylynn.nunn@msc.org or phone +61 9524 8400.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Hoyle', with a stylized, cursive script.

Fisheries Oversight Director
Marine Stewardship Council
cc: ASI, lead auditor