



Amanda Stern-Pirlot
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Sent by email

Date: 16/06/2022

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement v2.4.1 GCR-7.5.6 for New Zealand orange roughy

Dear Amanda Stern-Pirlot,

I write with reference to your submission on 09/06/2022 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow:

To extend the certificate expiration date two weeks to 2 August 2022.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to v2.4.1 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:

- Personal circumstances resulted in the unexpected unavailability of one of the assessment team members, which resulted in delays to the PCDR timeline.
- The PCDR was published on the 8 June 2022, which means that there is no longer enough time to complete the PCDR comment period and objection period before the certificate is due to expire on the 19 July 2022.
- The additional time requested would allow for process requirements to be fulfilled while keeping the fishery certified.
- The original certificate expiration date was the 7 June 2022. A previous Variation Request was accepted against the same requirement for the same assessment for the same fishery to extend the certificate expiration date to the 19 July 2022. The additional time requested in this Variation Request is still within three months of the original certificate expiration date.

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

- Extended deadline is until 2 August 2022.
- When requested by the MSC, 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.
- 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: Assurance Services International