



Geralidine Criquet
SAI Global (SAI)

Sent by email

Date: 12/04/2018

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement v2.0 FCR-7.23.6.1 for US Acadian redfish, haddock and pollock otter trawl fishery

Dear Geralidine Criquet,

I write with reference to your submission on 09/04/2018 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow:

Request to be allowed to undertake the 1st surveillance audit of this fishery 10/11 months later than the anniversary date of the certificate (please note the ambiguity here relates to uncertainty as to when important stakeholders will be available to participate in any site visit activities, having just started the process SAI Global cannot be sure of when this might be).

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to v2.0 FCR-7.23.6.1 state:

CABs may elect to undertake surveillance audits up to 6 months earlier or later than the anniversary date, where this deviation is appropriate given the circumstances of the fishery

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 fishery was certified on July 5th, 2016 so the surveillance audit should have been undertaken no later than January 5th, 2018.
- On 1st December 2017 a VR was granted allowing the 1st surveillance audit to be undertaken 7 months later than the anniversary date of the certificate; this would have necessitated a surveillance site visit being announced no later than 8th January 2018.

In this case the rationale is insufficient for the MSC to grant a variation to the CR. This request is therefore declined.

Six months past the certificate anniversary date has already passed as has the additional month granted through the first submitted variation request on this matter. Per GCR 4.12.2.3, this request has been submitted after this circumstance occurred.

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