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Geraldine Criquet
SAI Global Assurance Services
Quayside Business Park, Mill Street
Dundalk, County Louth
Ireland

Sent by email

Date: 27 May 2015

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement 27.8.2

Dear Geraldine Criquet,

I write with reference to your submission on 14 May 2015 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow the use of a non-default assessment tree for the Canada 3LN redfish trap fishery.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to assessment trees 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:

- After reviewing available information on the fishery, the assessment team determined that the default assessment tree contained in Annex CB of the MSC Certification Requirements v1.3 does not meet the specific characteristics of the fishery. Therefore the assessment team proposes to assess the fishery using the default assessment tree with modifications for Principle 1.
- The request does not alter the conformity of the applicant fishery with the MSC standard.
- There are two species of redfish in Division 3LN, the deep-redfish and the Acadian redfish, which have very similar external characteristics, making them difficult to distinguish. Therefore they are fished as a stock complex. Catches are reported collectively and redfish in 3LN is regarded as a management unit composed of these two very similar redfish species.
- The proposed changes are outlined in the variation request.

Given the rationale provide, the MSC is willing to grant a variation to the CR in this case.



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If you have any questions regarding this response, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best regards,

Dan Hoggarth
Fisheries Oversight Director
Marine Stewardship Council

cc: ASI