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Paul Knapman
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Canada

Sent by email

Date: 31.01.2013

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement 27.22.3.1 for the Vietnam Ben Tre clam hand gathered fishery

Dear Paul,

I write with reference to your submission on 17.01.2013 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) on the timing of surveillance audits, to extend the date of the third annual surveillance audit to four months after that originally planned.

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:

- Changes within the staff responsible for representing the client group, and
- Continued limited availability of key staff involved with the management of the fishery.

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 informed of this change to surveillance audit date.



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- There are no issues that the CAB is aware of that would compromise the sustainability of the fishery over this time period.

If you have any questions regarding this response, please do not hesitate to contact Maylynn Nunn at +61 9524 8400.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "David Hoyle".

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