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Andrew Hough
Lead Auditor
Intertek Fisheries Certification

Sent by email

Date: 21/03/2014

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement for Dutch Oyster Association Oyster Fishery

Dear Andrew,

I write with reference to your submission on 17/03/2014 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow a team of two be utilized, but only one on-site, during next Surveillance Audit.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to Surveillance (27.22) 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:

- Two team members are proposed –both members of the original assessment team and considered best placed to review the fishery.
- One member is recovering from an operation, and delays in this will prevent him flying on this occasion.
- CAB propose to keep this team of two people, but only one of the them conduct the on-site visit alone and then liaises with the other over production of the surveillance report(s).
- There are no negative implications; on-site team member has the technical expertise to review the relevant aspects of the fisheries and to inform off-site team member over specific technical issues. Both team members would co-author the report

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

- Stakeholders are notified of the changes.

If you have any questions regarding this response, please do not hesitate to contact Sergio Cansado, the Fisheries Assessment Manager for this fishery either by email sergio.cansado@msc.org or phone +44(0)2072468937

Best regards,

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

Marine Stewardship Council
cc: ASI, lead auditor