



Sian Morgan
SCS Global Services

Sent by email

Date: 27/04/2016

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement CB3.1.2 for Tri-Marine Western and Central Pacific skipjack and yellowfin tuna

Dear Sian,

I write with reference to your submission on 25/04/2016 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow a Principle 2 species to be scored in more than one component.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to designating species 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:

- The variation will allow the team to structure findings in the report in a manner that accurately represents two separate concepts relevant to scoring for Silky sharks – isolated records of finning and low level catch of a mandatory discard species – that are in different components in P2
- The MSC CR v1.3 does not have a scoring issue for shark finning in the 'Bycatch' component, so the variation will allow the team to score content relevant to Silky Sharks in the most logical places in the Final Report, which includes under both retained and bycatch performance indicators.
- As a species that comprises 0.1% of the catch silky sharks are a Minor species, and you will call them such in the Final Report. The species will be accounted for at the SG100 as a Minor bycatch species level under Pls 2.2x.
- This change will not affect current scores, nor content as presented to stakeholders for the PCDR.

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



- Information is added to the Final Report in PI 2.1.2, scoring issue (e) on shark finning explaining why silky sharks are considered in this scoring issue as well as in the Bycatch PIs (2.2.x).

If you have any questions regarding this response, please do not hesitate to contact Adrian Gutteridge, the Fisheries Assessment Manager for this fishery either by email adrian.gutteridge@msc.org

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephanie Good'.

Stephanie Good

Senior Fisheries Certification Manager
Marine Stewardship Council
CC: ASI, lead auditor