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Sent by email

Date: 11 April 2012

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirements 27.22.13

Dear Jim Andrews,

I write with reference to your submission on 3 April 2012 of a request for the South Africa hake fishery for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow the submission of the surveillance report to be delayed.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to the timing of surveillance report submissions 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:

- During the site visit and subsequent investigations, the assessment team identified changes to observer coverage, which may require rescoring of one or more Performance Indicators.
- Additional time is required to evaluate and respond to these changes and to allow the fishery to respond to any changes (if they occur) in the scoring of any Performance Indicators.

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

- The surveillance report for this fishery will be submitted by 9 July 2012.
- This extension will have no effect on the timing of subsequent surveillance audits, which will occur on or before the certificate anniversary for this fishery (17 March).

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

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Hoyle'.

Marine Stewardship Council

cc: ASI