



Amanda Stern-Pirlot
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Sent by email

Date: 7/25/2020

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement v2.1 FCP-7.29.8 for Gulf of Maine lobster fishery

Dear Amanda Stern-Pirlot,

I write with reference to your submission on 22/07/2020 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow:

Extending the deadline to submit the expedited report by one week.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to v2.1 FCP-7.29.8 state:

The CAB shall upload the expedited audit report to the MSC database for publication on the MSC website, within 60 days of announcing the expedited audit

These 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 supporting your request, including:

- That MRAG have received a substantial amount of information on a very contentious issue and requires 7 extra days to adequately review the information submitted and to address the issues that could potentially affect this fishery.
- The assessment team met remotely with several stakeholders who wish to have a summary of the meeting record included. The extra time will ensure that MRAG have an accurate record of the meetings.

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

Extended deadline is 7 days from the original date.

If you have any questions regarding this response, please do not hesitate to contact the relevant Fisheries Assessment Manager for this fishery.

Marine Stewardship Council
cc: Assurance Services International