



Polly Burns
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Sent by email

Date: 22/06/2016

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement v2.1 GCR-7.5.6 for New Zealand hoki

Dear Polly Burns,

I write with reference to your submission on 22/06/2016 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow:

To extend the certificate by 9 months to 1st June 2018 or re-certification date (whichever comes first).

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to v2.1 GCR-7.5.6 state:

The CAB shall issue fisheries certificates with a maximum validity period of 5 years from the issue date

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:

The New Zealand Hoki fishery was certified on the 25th September 2012, and has had three surveillance audits to date. It's current expiry date is the 24th September 2017. Along with three other fisheries within the client group, this fishery is due to enter reassessment in May 2017, with a site visit in June. Two of the four fisheries have certificates that are valid until 15th September 2019 (Hake and Ling), with the 4th being valid until 31st April 2017.

The goal of the extension is to mitigate the shortened certificate life of Hake and Ling caused by this certificate consolidation. The benefit all four fisheries entering reassessment together is to reduce the cost to the client, improve the efficiency of the process and reduce duplicating stakeholder engagement.

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

- CAB can reconfirm compliance after site visit.
- The CAB can confirm that it is not aware at this time of any factor (related to either fishery status, or performance against conditions) that could result in the fishery no longer being in compliance with the MSC Fisheries Standard.
- Stakeholders are informed.
- ECert is updated to reflect changes, including providing a certificate covering the period from the end of the current certificate to the date accepted in the variation response.

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: Accreditation Services International