



Billy Hynes  
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**Sent by email**

Date: 27/06/2017

**Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement v2.0 FCR-7.23.18 for Ashtamudi Estuary short-necked clam**

Dear Billy Hynes,

I write with reference to your submission on 20/06/2017 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow:

Surveillance report will be submitted within 3 weeks after current deadline of 20th June 2017.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to v2.0 FCR-7.23.18 state:

This Surveillance Report shall be forwarded to the MSC within 60 days of completing the audit, for publication on the MSC website

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:**

- Delays from the client gaining and providing information to the assessment team
- Draft report complete but requires the additional information
- There is not sustainability risk to the fishery from the delay

**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 informed
- Further delays are avoided

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