



Sabine Daume

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Sent by email

Date: 26/05/2016

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement FCR-7.23.12.5bi for PNA Skipjack purse seine fishery

Dear Sabine,

I write with reference to your submission on 25/05/2016 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to not rescore PI 1.2.1 for skipjack tuna at the 4th annual surveillance audit and propose the rescoring and resulting new condition at the reassessment.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to condition setting at surveillance audits 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 reassessment for PNA Skipjack and Yellowfin Tuna Fishery is due to start this year. Due to the short amount of time between the 4th surveillance and the reassessment, it is proposed that any re-scoring of this PI be deferred until the reassessment, when detailed consideration can be given to the outcome of the recent harmonisation meeting in Hong Kong (April 2016).
- The results of other assessments and the latest discussions at the harmonisation meeting will be noted in the 4th annual surveillance report.

Given the rationale provided, the MSC is willing to grant a variation to the CR in this case.

- Stakeholders are made aware of the decision.



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

Marine Stewardship Council  
cc: ASI, lead auditor