



Sabine Daume
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Sent by email

Date: 30/10/2019

Dear Sabine Daume,

I write with reference to your submission on 10/10/2019 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow:

To align Pacific swordfish of the Walker Seafood fishery to the same one-off Principle 1 alignment which was already accepted by MSC under the mega variance.

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:

- As part of the CAB-wide variation for rescoring tuna fisheries and aligning condition milestones, Walker seafood tuna and swordfish fishery was listed as part of the variance but only for WCPO yellowfin and albacore.
- Walker seafood has South Pacific swordfish as a UoC but this was not part of the CAB-wide variation.
- There are no other Pacific swordfish fisheries currently certified or in assessment and therefore would not be under any harmonisation requirement per se.
- We propose to align Pacific swordfish of the Walker Seafood fishery to the same one-off Principle 1 alignment which was already accepted by MSC under the mega variance.
- The rescoring is underway at the moment due to the fishery undergoing reassessment and producing an ACDR
- Additionally, the swordfish rescoring would be added to an annex to the 4th annual surveillance report.
- The proposal avoids producing a report as per the CAB-wide variation process in which different P1 species are scored against different versions of the Certification Requirements.

In this case the rationale is insufficient for the MSC to grant a variation to the CR. This request is therefore declined.

- In upgrading the swordfish UoA to FCR v2.0, the client shall follow all relevant reporting requirements for full upgrades in Annex B of the CAB wide variation process document
- Reassessment of swordfish against v2.0 shall occur at the upcoming reassessment

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