



Kat Collinson
MEC

Sent by email

Date: 1 March 2016

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement FCR-7.3.4 for the Cornwall sardine fishery

Dear Kat,

I write with reference to your submission on 26 February 2016 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow publication date for the Public Comment Draft Report to be extended by two months until the 26 April 2016.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to assessment timelines 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:

- Delays in the publication of reports and assessment process due to continuing harmonisation process between two other MSC sardine fisheries (South Brittany and Bay of Biscay).
- The next harmonisation call with CABs, to be facilitated by the MSC is due on the 4th March 2016, after which time, MEC envisages a suitable outcome to proceed to the client draft report stage.
- This delay may have implications on the certification date, which may need to be extended to accommodate delays in the assessment timelines. MEC is aware of implication.

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

- Evidence of progress can be provided.



If you have any questions regarding this response, please do not hesitate to contact Emily McGregor, the Fisheries Assessment Manager for this fishery either by email emily.mcgregor@msc.org or phone +44 (0)20 7246 8938.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephanie Good'.

Stephanie Good

Senior Certification Manager

Marine Stewardship Council
CC: ASI, lead auditor