

Marine Stewardship Council - Variation Request

Date submitted to MSC	May 30, 2017
Name of CAB	MRAG Americas
Fishery Name/CoC Certificate Number	US North Atlantic Swordfish
Lead Auditor/Programme Manager	Graeme Parkes
Scheme requirement(s) for which variation requested	FCR 7.23.18 This Surveillance Report shall be forwarded to the MSC within 60 days of completing the audit, for publication on the MSC website.
Is this variation sought in order to fulfil IPI requirements (FCR 7.4.14)?	No

1. Proposed variation	
The Surveillance report will be submitted 5 weeks after current deadline of June 21, 2017. The requested extension date is July 28 th , 2017.	
2. Rationale/Justification	
<p>There are several reasons for the requested extension for this surveillance report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is an unexpected overlap with one of the assessment team members on another MSC fishery project. The MRAG assessment team for the Solomon Islands skipjack and yellowfin tuna has been modified to include Dr. Monica Valle as the new team leader, since Dr. Trumble is unavailable for personal reasons. • This change will require Dr. Valle to travel for MSC business on this assessment through mid-June 2017, causing an overlap between projects and deadlines. • The involvement of the team leader, Graeme Parkes, in responding to MSC on the Canadian swordfish surveillance, given its relevance to the US swordfish surveillance. • There is one swordfish meeting pending to complete swordfish site visit due to unavailability of an important government stakeholder in April – May. The meeting date has yet to be confirmed. 	
3. Implications for assessment (required for fisheries assessment variations only)	
The implications include a delay to the surveillance timeline and publishing of the report	
4. Have the stakeholders of this fishery assessment been informed of this request? (required for fisheries assessment variations only)	No. This request will serve as notice to stakeholders.
5. Further Comments	
N/A	