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Sent by email

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Pingtairong Pacific tuna deep set longline fishery, request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirements.

- V3.0 - FS-Implementation timeframes - CABs shall conduct any initial assessment that is announced on or after 1 May 2023 in conformity with the MSC Fisheries Standard v3.0.

Dear Gabriela Anhalzer,

I write with reference to your submission on 10/05/2023 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirements (CR) to allow:

Accept the Pingtairong Pacific Tuna Deep Set Longline Fishery Announcement Comment Draft Report and Fishery Announcement as intended under FSC v2.01 and FCP v 2.3

The requirements 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:

- The Pingtairong Pacific Tuna Deep Set Longline Fishery applied to SCS for assessment against MSC Fisheries Standard v2.01 in August 2022. The ACDR and announcement were subsequently written over the past eight months in accordance with this version of the standard.
- Due to the project manager's challenging international travel arrangements for three other site visits, the ACDR and announcement were not uploaded and published before the 1 May 2023 deadline. The documents were uploaded on 29 April 2023.
- This was due to no fault of the fishery, having completed the assessment under MSC Fisheries Standard v2.01, and it would be an extreme financial burden for the fishery client to re-start the assessment process under MSC Fisheries Standard v3.0.

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

- The circumstances relating to the CAB's actions have been considered and this variation shall not be taken as precedent for similar situations in the future.
- The CAB shall follow the requirements set out in FCP v2.3 for the announcement of the fishery assessment, and assess the fishery against MSC Fisheries Standard v2.01.

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: Assurance Services International