



Billy Hynes  
Acoura Marine  
6 Redheughs Rigg  
Edinburgh  
United Kingdom  
EH12 9DQ

**Sent by email**

Date: 08/06/2017

**Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement v2.0 FCR-7.3.4 for PNA Western and Central Pacific skipjack and yellowfin, unassociated / non FAD set, tuna purse seine**

Dear Billy Hynes,

I write with reference to your submission on 05/06/2017 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow:

The PCDR will be submitted to the MSC by close of business on the 15th June 2016, later than the previously extended deadline of the 6th June 2017, the assessment will not be reopened to new information.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to v2.0 FCR-7.3.4 state:

**7.3.4**

If the period from full assessment announcement to the receipt of the Public Comment Draft Report by the MSC exceeds 9 months the CAB shall:

**7.3.4.1**

Within 5 days of the 9 month deadline, provide the MSC with a statement for posting on the MSC website requesting, for a period of 30 days, stakeholder submission of any new information relating to the fishery that the team should consider in the assessment of the fishery.

**7.3.4.2**

Directly notify stakeholders participating in the fishery assessment of the opportunity to submit new information relating to the fishery that the team should consider in the assessment of the fishery.

**7.3.4.3**

Following the 30 day period within which stakeholders have the opportunity to submit new information

- a. Review any new information provided.
- b. Review the outcomes of any scoring of the fishery previously undertaken against the most recent version of the MSC Certification Requirements.
- c. Assess new information following all steps from scoring the fishery (7.10) to peer review (7.14) against the most recent version of the MSC Fisheries Certification Requirements.
- i. The team may limit the scope of this assessment to the re-scoring of those PIs for which there is new information and for which the requirements have changed in the most recent version of the MSC Certification Requirements

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:**

- The Peer Review Draft Report was submitted to the MSC Peer Review College on the 26th April 2017.



- While the first Peer Review comments were received a week later, the second set of comments took more than a month
- The certificate for this fishery expires at the end of August meaning that a review of information consultation would critically delay later reporting stages and necessitate a further certificate extension.

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

Stakeholders are informed.

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