

# Marine Stewardship Council - Variation Request

<b>Date submitted to MSC</b>	15 <sup>th</sup> August 2017
<b>Name of CAB</b>	Acoura Marine
<b>Fishery Name/CoC Certificate Number</b>	PNA Western and Central Pacific skipjack and yellowfin, unassociated / non-FAD set, tuna purse seine
<b>Lead Auditor/Programme Manager</b>	Rob Blyth-Skyrme/Billy Hynes
<b>Variation prepared by:</b>	Billy Hynes with Rob Blyth-Skyrme
<b>Scheme requirement(s) for which variation requested</b>	GCR V2.1 7.5.6 The CAB shall issue fisheries certificates with a maximum validity period of 5 years from the issue date.
<b>Is this variation sought in order to fulfil IPI requirements (FCR 7.4.14)?</b>	No

<b>1. Proposed variation</b>	
To extend the certificate of the fishery from the 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2017 (that date having been set following the submission of a previous Variation Requests for certification extensions in March 2016 and on April 13 <sup>th</sup> 2017). The proposed new certificate date is the 15 <sup>th</sup> October 2017.	
<b>2. Rationale/Justification</b>	
<p>Further to rationales detailed in earlier variation requests, following the publication of the Public Comment Draft Report, substantial and detailed stakeholder comments were received. The need for a further extension beyond that confirmed after the April 13<sup>th</sup> request is because the assessment team was required to seek further confirmation on the points raised during the holiday months (July/August), which is also the period during which the SPC (as a key stakeholder and information source for the assessment) holds its annual Scientific Committee meeting.</p> <p>In part, the delay is also due to the Lead Assessor suffering with an extended attack of shingles, which made it difficult to sit at a desk for approximately 6 weeks from the end of May to early July.</p> <p>The Final Report is close to complete and expected to be published by the end of August at the latest. The time requested is to allow continued certification until the publication of the Public Certification Report, as well as a little time for possible delays due to the complexity and scale of the assessment.</p>	
<b>3. Implications for assessment (required for fisheries assessment variations only)</b>	
Acoura can confirm that we have no reasons to doubt the ability of the fishery to meet the standard and it is expected that once this delay has passed, the assessment will continue as planned.	
<b>4. Have the stakeholders of this fishery assessment been informed of this request? (required for fisheries assessment variations only)</b>	No
<b>5. Further Comments</b>	
<i>Please include any further relevant information.</i>	