

Rob Blyth-Skyrme

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Sent by email

Date: 13 July 2011

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC scheme requirements on surveillance and recertification timelines

Dear Rob Blyth-Skyrme,

I write with reference to your submission on 27 June 2011 of a request for variation to the MSC scheme requirement to allow a three month delay in the timing of the fourth surveillance audit and reassessment.

As you are aware, the FCM procedures relating to the timing of surveillance audits and reassessments are integral to ensuring all MSC accredited certification 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 scheme.

MSC notes the factors presented in your letter supporting your request, including:

- Conflicting schedules of surveillance audits with albacore fishing season and US National Marine Fisheries Service scientific fieldwork season in the summer months, and
- Consequent difficulty in obtaining input from the specialists best placed to inform the assessment process.

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

- All stakeholders are informed of the change to timelines and appropriately consulted as per MSC requirements on stakeholder consultation in surveillance and reassessment;
- Further delays in the fisheries assessment process are avoided.

If you have any questions regarding this response, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Maylynn Nunn', written in a cursive style.

Maylynn Nunn
Senior Fisheries Certification Manager

Marine Stewardship Council
cc: ASI