



Sian Morgan

SCS Global Services

2000 Powell Street, Suite 600

Emeryville, CA 94608, USA

Sent by email

Date: 23/12/2015

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement CRv1.3 27.4.3 for Northeastern Tropical Pacific Purse Seine Yellowfin and Skipjack Tuna fishery

Dear Sian,

I write with reference to your submission on 21/12/2015 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to withdraw two Units of Certification (UOC) being the skipjack and yellowfin object-associated purse sets.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to defining the UOC 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 in your letter supporting your request, including:

- Upon review of the Client Draft Report, the client has decided to withdraw the object associated sets from MSC assessment.
- There are already systems in place in the fishery to differentiate product by set type at the vessel-well level, and therefore removing this set-type from MSC assessment does not increase traceability risk, although MSC CoC audits will be required to verify Chain of Custody considerations.
- This variance will affect the structure of the scoring, with a total of 4 distinct units of assessments instead of 6.
- Product caught in object-associated sets will not be eligible for the MSC ecolabel.



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

If you have any questions regarding this response, please do not hesitate to contact Adrian Gutteridge by email on adrian.gutteridge@msc.org or by phone +61 405 390 660.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Dan Hoggarth". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dan Hoggarth
Head of Fisheries Standard

Marine Stewardship Council
cc: ASI, lead auditor