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Sent by email

Date: 04/07/2013

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement CR27.8.2

Dear Adrienne Vincent,

I write with reference to your submission on 29 June 2013 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirements (CR) to use a revised assessment tree for the reassessment of the Iturup pink and chum salmon fishery.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to assessment trees 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:

- This fishery exists within a system that includes hatcheries (enhancement). The tree has been modified by adding three performance indicators (1.3.1, 1.3.2, and 1.3.3) to account for impacts due to the hatchery programmes.
- The performance indicators, scoring guideposts, and scoring issues have been edited to more closely match CR v1.3.
- The proposed assessment tree is the same as that being used for the Narody-Severa Bolsheretsk Salmon fishery also in the Russian Far East with additional language to account for hatchery influence in Principle 2 Pls.

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 me.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Dan Hoggarth'.

Dan Hoggarth  
Fisheries Oversight Director  
Marine Stewardship Council

cc: ASI