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Sent by email

Date: 01/02/2013

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement CR 27.22 Table C4 for Northeast Sakhalin Island pink salmon trap net fishery.

Dear Dr Robert Trumble,

I write with reference to your submission on 29 January 2013 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow the first annual surveillance audit to occur 15 months after certification with subsequent surveillance occurring at 1 year intervals from that time.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to the timing of surveillance audits 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:

- Shifting the surveillance audit to occur at the conclusion of the fishing season will ensure the availability of industry representatives, scientists and managers who would be otherwise busy in June, and allow consideration of preliminary data from the fishing season.
- The rescheduling of the surveillance audit will allow it to coincide with the Ozernaya River sockeye salmon fishery and thus allow the two fisheries to share travel expenses rather than have the cost burden of two trips.

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

- The CAB can confirm that it is not aware at this time of any factor (related to either fishery status, or performance against conditions) that could result in the fishery no longer being in compliance with the MSC fishery standard.

If you have any questions regarding this response, please do not hesitate to contact Megan Atcheson the Fisheries Assessment Manager for this fishery either by email megan.atcheson@msc.org or phone +44 (0)207 246 8978.

Best regards,



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cc: ASI, lead auditor