



Marine House  
1 Snow Hill  
London  
EC1A 2DH  
United Kingdom  
Tel: +44 (0)207 246 9800  
Fax: +44 (0)207 246 9801

Paul Knapman  
1801 Hollis Street  
Suite 1220  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
B3J 3N4  
Canada

Sent by email

Date: 11.03.2013

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement CR 27.22.3.1 for the North West Atlantic Canada swordfish longline fishery

Dear Paul Knapman,

I write with reference to your submission on 11.03.2013 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow the surveillance audit of the above noted fishery in combination with the third surveillance audit for the North West Atlantic Canada Swordfish Harpoon fishery.

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:

- The intent to have both surveillance audits completed by the anniversary date of the harpoon certificate, June 18, 2013;
- Both fisheries are managed by the same regulatory body, and some fishers involved in the Canadian swordfish harvest, are licenced to participate in both the harpoon and longline fishery;
- The combination of the surveillance audits will avoid duplication of requests for information from fisheries managers, scientists and clients, therefore minimizing time resources; and will enable some cost sharing between fishery clients, and

- The surveillance audit site visit would be conducted in late April or May, therefore between the anniversaries of the two certificates, and around the same time that the surveillance audit for the harpoon fishery has been conducted in the past. The anniversary of the harpoon certificate, June 18th, was defined as the latest that the audit would be conducted.

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

- The surveillance audits are not conducted later than the anniversary date of the harpoon certificate (June 18, 2013).
- Stakeholders for both fisheries are informed of this change.

If you have any questions regarding this response, please do not hesitate to contact Maylynn Nunn, the Fisheries Assessment Manager for this fishery either by email [maylynn.nunn@msc.org](mailto:maylynn.nunn@msc.org) or phone +61 9524 8400.

Best regards,



Fisheries Oversight Director  
Marine Stewardship Council  
cc: ASI, lead auditor