



Gavin Fitzgerald
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Sent by email

Date: 12/07/2016

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement v2.0 FCR-PE2.2.2 for SZLC, HNSFC & CFA Cook Islands EEZ south Pacific albacore longline

Dear Gavin Fitzgerald,

I write with reference to your submission on 12/07/2016 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow:

To allow for off-site meetings with stakeholders in order to ensure the requisite 30 days notification.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to v2.0 FCR-PE2.2.2 state:

The CAB shall conduct the expedited assessment either during a special on-site expedited audit or during a regular on-site surveillance audit

These 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 supporting your request, including:

Stakeholders will be given the opportunity to meet with the assessment team at the already planned on-site visit scheduled for 19-20 July. This site visit is being held for the first annual surveillance as well as for the scope extension to include yellowfin tuna. The addition of new vessels was decided after the 30 day notification had been posted.

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

Stakeholders are notified of all opportunities to input in the scope extension, including by videoconferencing.

If you have any questions regarding this response, please do not hesitate to contact the relevant Fisheries Assessment Manager for this fishery.

Marine Stewardship Council
cc: Accreditation Services International