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Andrew Hough
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Sent by email

Date: 24.09.2012

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement 27.9.4

Dear Andrew,

I write with reference to your submission on 13.09.2012 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) 27.9.4 to allow a further information gathering period and SICA workshop through the medium of teleconference (rather than in person).

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to CR27.9 on the planning and execution of site visits, stakeholder consultation and information collection 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:

- Through a priori assumptions of the assessment team based on previous assessments of the fishery, the RBF was not employed on the original site visit
- Recent changes in personnel at the National Board of Fisheries and changes in emphasis of science away from this fishery have led to concomitant changes in the information base for the fishery; analysis of the information provided has determined that appropriate information required to score the following PIs was not obtained: 1.1.1, 2.1.1, 2.2.1, 2.4.1, 2.5.1
- This is a re-assessment, so the assessment team are familiar with the nature of the fishery, a comprehensive site visit has already taken place; the stakeholders and assessment team are well known to each other



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- This is a small-scale fishery and costs to the client for additional information gathering should be minimized where possible

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

- A notification to stakeholders of the proposed teleconference will be made 30 days in advance of the teleconference date, allowing for all requirements of CR appendix CC2.2
- All other requirements on use of the RBF as indicated in CR appendix CC are adhered to

If you have any questions regarding this response, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Agnew'.

Dr David Agnew
Standards Director
Marine Stewardship Council
cc: ASI, lead auditor