



Macarena Garcia Silva

Bureau Veritas Certification

C/ Valportillo

Alcobendas

Madrid

Spain

Sent by email

Date: 30/11/2016

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement FCR-7.3.2 to extend the 18-month fishery assessment timeline

Dear Macarena,

I write with reference to your submission on 30/11/2016 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to extend the deadline for the publication of the Final Report from 1 December 2016 to 19 January 2017.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to fishery assessment timelines 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 CAB published the Public Comment Draft Report on Tuesday 18th October 2016.
- The CAB decided to extend in 7 days the public comment period on the Public Comment Draft Report of the North and South Atlantic swordfish Spanish longline fishery. The new deadline was 26th November, 2016.
- The CAB received comments from several NGO's and the assessment team needs more time to reply properly, especially with upcoming Christmas shutdown period

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



- Stakeholders are informed, including an updated timeline on the MSC website.

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

Marine Stewardship Council  
cc: ASI, lead auditor