



Billy Hynes  
Acoura

Sent by email

Date: 26/06/2017

**Request for variation to the MSC General Certification Requirement v2.1 GCR-7.5.6 and MSC General Certification Requirement FCR 7.3.4 for Clearwater Seafoods Banquereau and Grand Bank Arctic surf clam Hydraulic Dredge**

Dear Billy,

I write with reference to your submission on 05/06/2017 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow:

- The publishing of the PCDR by 14th July 2017 (this would be just over 5 weeks later than the current deadline of 7th June 2017), without opening the report to a new consultation period (FCR 7.3.4).
- The extension of the certificate expiry date from the 17th July 2017 to the 30th September (ca. 2.5 month extension) (GCR 7.5.6).

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to v2.1 GCR-7.5.6 (5 year certification timeline) and v2.0 FCR 7.3.4 (9 months from announcement to PCDR) 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:

- This assessment process has been subject to delays due to personal issues on the team related to two out of the three team members.
- Additional consultation (3 weeks) with DFO and client over additional conditions.

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 informed.
- 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 Fisheries Standard.



- ECert is updated to reflect changes, including providing a certificate covering the period from the end of the current certificate to the date accepted in the variation response.
- Evidence of progress can be provided if requested.

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