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**Sent by email**

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**American Samoa EEZ tuna longline fishery, request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirements.**

- V2.4.1 - GCR-7.5.6 - The CAB shall issue fishery certificates with a maximum validity period of 5 years from the issue date.

Dear Emily Vella,

I write with reference to your submission on 04/04/2023 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirements (CR) to allow:

The CAB is requesting a 60 day extension for the certificate anniversary for the American Samoa EEZ tuna longline fishery, in order to maintain certificate continuity for the client, whilst they undertake the completion of the re-assessment stages.

The requirements 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:**

- The client is a signatory to the early adoption of Section SE for all target stocks.
- The Public Comment Draft Report has been delayed to enable the assessment team to incorporate the new Tool D, published by the MSC, thereby extending the re-assessment process.

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

- The extended deadline is 21 July 2023.
- When requested by MSC, 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.
- On receipt of this variation response Ecert is updated to reflect changes, including a certificate covering the extension.

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: Assurance Services International