



Graeme Parkes
MRAG Americas, Inc (MRAG)
10051 5th Street, Suit 105
St Petersburg
United States
33702

Sent by email

Date: 20/06/2017

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement v2.0 FCR-7.23.18 for US North Atlantic swordfish

Dear Graeme Parkes,

I write with reference to your submission on 30/05/2017 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow:

The Surveillance report will be submitted 5 weeks after current deadline of June 21, 2017. The requested extension date is July 28th, 2017.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to v2.0 FCR-7.23.18 state:

This Surveillance Report shall be forwarded to the MSC within 60 days of completing the audit, for publication on the MSC website

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:

- An assessment team member, Dr Monica Valle, has a scheduling clash from an overlapping MSC assessment site visit throughout mid-June 2017.
- The involvement of the team leader, Graeme Parkes, in responding to MSC on the Canadian swordfish surveillance, given its relevance to the US swordfish surveillance
- A key stakeholder meeting for the surveillance report has not occurred due to previous unavailability

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

- 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.
- Stakeholders are informed.

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



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