



Dr Sabine Daume

SCS Global Services

Office 1, 5 Green Street,

Healesville, Victoria 3777,

Australia

Sent by email

Date: 22/3/2016

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement CR v1.3 7.5.9 for PNA Skipjack and Yellowfin Tuna Fishery

Dear Dr Daume,

I write with reference to your submission on 9/3/2016 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow fishery certificate for an additional 6 months from 20 December 2016 until 20 June 2017.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to the fishery certificate length 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:

- A delay in conducting the 4<sup>th</sup> surveillance audit is due to uncertainties in outcomes of the pilot harmonisation workshop in Hong Kong, planned for the 21-22 April 2016.
- The request is based on an informal understanding that assessments are deferred pending the outcomes of the Harmonization meeting.
- On request by the client the 4th annual surveillance audit meeting was postponed until after meeting so that results could be incorporated as appropriate.
- The 4th surveillance audit is now tentatively planned for the 9-13 May 2016.

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 is not aware of any reasons why the fishery's surveillance audit and reassessment should be delayed (e.g., due to concerns on stock status, management conditions that could result in the fishery not being in compliance with the MSC fishery standard).

If you have any questions regarding this response, please do not hesitate to contact, the MSC Fisheries Team by email [fisheries@msc.org](mailto:fisheries@msc.org).

Best regards,

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

David Agnew

Director Science and Standards

Marine Stewardship Council  
cc: ASI, lead auditor