



Billy Hynes  
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**Sent by email**

Date: 19/02/2018

**Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement v2.0 FCR-7.5.1 for Chile Purse Seine jack mackerel jurel**

Dear Billy Hynes,

I write with reference to your submission on 07/02/2018 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow:

To use a team that does not strictly conform with section five of Table PC3: Fishery Team Qualification and Competency Criteria

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to v2.0 FCR-7.5.1 state:

The CAB shall announce a team for a fisheries assessment comprising a team leader and a minimum of one additional team member who meets the qualifications and competency requirements specified in Tables PC1, PC2 and PC3 in Annex PC and in line with requirements in the General Certification Requirements (GCR)

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:**

- Acoura are undertaking a full assessment of the Chile Purse Seine jack mackerel fishery in Santiago, Valparaíso and Concepción in Chile week commencing 19th March 2018.
- Due to scheduling conflicts, the team member Andy Hough has had to withdraw from the assessment. Andy Hough represented the local context for the team having undertaken projects in the region in the last 15 years (thus meeting section five of PC3).
- Acoura have a planned replacement, still to be announced, who is an appropriate technical fit with many years of experience of MSC assessments on similar species as well as experience applying the RBF which is required for four P2 performance indicators.
- The other team member Paul Knapman has 3 years' experience with responsibility for MSC assessments in Chile when working for Intertek. He does not have any regional experience as per section five PC3.
- A Chilean interpreter will be used for stakeholder meetings and the client has contracted a native English, Spanish speaking MSC assessor based in Chile to work as their facilitator. He will be on site for the site visit as well as responding to the team.

**In this case the rationale is insufficient for the MSC to grant a variation to the CR. This request is therefore declined.**

The request states that Paul Knapman has 3 years' experience with responsibility for MSC assessments in Chile when working for Intertek. From this, it indicates that section 5b of Table PC3 is met and the variation is not needed for qualifications.

The suggestion that a facilitator contracted by the fishery client could address the competency shortfall in section 5 of Table PC3 does not conform with ISO170065 clauses 4.2 and 6.1.2. As such, the MSC declines this



variation request.

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