



Deirdre Duggan
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Sent by email

Date: 3/24/2020

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement v2.1 FCP-7.28.23 for North West Atlantic Canada longline swordfish

Dear Deirdre Duggan,

I write with reference to your submission on 25/02/2020 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow:

LR propose to submit their surveillance report for the North West Atlantic Canada harpoon swordfish and North West Atlantic Canada longline swordfish fisheries 2.5 months after the original deadline (20th April 2020), meaning a new deadline of 30th June 2020.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to v2.1 FCP-7.28.23 state:

The CAB shall upload the Surveillance Report to the MSC database 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:

- The Canadian swordfish fisheries require to harmonise with the US North Atlantic swordfish fishery.
- All swordfish fisheries are required to upgrade their P1 scoring to v2.0 as per the CAB wide tuna variation request
- The US North Atlantic fishery is undergoing a full rescore and the Canadian fisheries need to wait for the P1 scoring prior to adopting it
- Lloyd's Register seek a Variation Request to delay publication of the P1 section of the surveillance report for the two North West Atlantic swordfish fisheries, to allow for harmonisation with the MRAG assessment.
- The CAB will publish the report containing the details on P2 and P3 according to the original timelines, and revise the report to complete when P1 scoring is confirmed

Given the rationale provided, the MSC is willing to grant a variation to the CR.

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