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Dr Rob Blyth-Skyrme/ Paul Knapman
Intertek Moody Marine

Sent by email

Date: 24/06/2013

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement CR 27.22.13 for Alaska BSAI pollock, Alaska GOA pollock, Alaska GOA Pacific cod, Alaska BSAI pacific cod, Alaska BSAI flatfish and Alaska GOA flatfish.

Dear Dr. Rob Blythe-Skyrme,

I write with reference to your submission on 9 June 2013 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow for a 4 week extension in the submission of the surveillance reports for the above mentioned fisheries.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to the the timing of the submission of surveillance reports 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 member of the assessment team is not readily available.
- The request does not alter the conformity of the certificate holders with the MSC standard.
- In the case of Alaska BSAI and GOA Pollock, the team is waiting for a key report on salmon stock-of-origin to be made available.
- The reports will be ready for submission by 15 July 2013.

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

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- Stakeholders are notified of the delay.

If you have any questions regarding this response, please do not hesitate to contact Megan Atcheson the Fisheries Assessment Manager for this fishery either by email megan.atcheson@msc.org or phone +44 (0)207 246 8978.

Best regards,

Dr Daniel Hoggarth
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Marine Stewardship Council
cc: ASI, lead auditor