

# MARINE STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL - TECHNICAL ADVISORY BOARD

## TAB DIRECTIVE SERIES

TAB Directive Number	Title	Date of issue
TAB D-027	Withholding Publication of Fishery Certification Reports and Announcements	23 February 2010
Decision date: 4 December 2009 Effective date for all clients and certification bodies: 8 March 2010		

### Documents Supplemented or Modified by this Directive

MSC Scheme Document	Status Change
Fishery Certification Methodology (FCM v6)	Supplemented

### Background

The Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) undertakes technical oversight throughout the fishery assessment process. In certain instances where the MSC is concerned that MSC requirements may have not been met, the MSC's right to delay the assessment process while the issue is investigated is unclear. In order to provide clarity on the MSC technical oversight procedure and provide authority to hold up the publication of assessment documents while issues are investigated, the TAB agreed a mechanism for pausing the assessment process.

### Intent

To allow the "pausing" of a fishery assessment if there are concerns of conformity to MSC scheme requirements.

### Directive

1. The MSC has the right to delay publication of a Certification Body's fishery assessment product (such as a Public Comment Draft Report or announcement) for up to 60 days if it has evidence that MSC requirements have not been met. During this period the MSC's accreditation body shall investigate the evidence, and shall reach a decision on whether there is a nonconformity or not.
2. Should there be a nonconformity, then the appropriate corrective action shall be taken by the certifier and a revised fishery assessment product shall be provided to the MSC for publication. Should the MSC's accreditation body find evidence of conformity, then they shall advise the MSC who shall publish the report without delay.

END