

## Marine Stewardship Council - Variation Request Form V1.3

<b>Date submitted to MSC</b>	14 <sup>th</sup> May 2015
<b>Conformity Assessment Body</b>	SAI Global
<b>Fishery Name/CoC Certificate Number</b>	Canada 3LN Redfish Fishery
<b>Lead Auditor/Programme Manager</b>	Geraldine Criquet
<b>Scheme requirement(s) to vary from</b>	<i>CR 27.8.2 CABs shall use the structure and the default set of PISGs in the default tree as set out in Annex CB in all assessments.</i>
<b>Is this variation sought in order to undertake an expedited P1 assessment (CR annex CL)?</b>	<i>No</i>

### 1. Proposed variation

*The assessment team is proposing to use the default assessment tree contained in Annex CB of the MSC Certification Requirements v1.3 with modifications for Principle 1.*

### 2. Rationale/Justification

After reviewing available information on the fishery, the assessment team determined that the default assessment tree contained in Annex CB of the MSC Certification Requirements v1.3 does not meet the specific characteristics of the fishery. Therefore the assessment team proposes to assess the fishery using the default assessment tree with modifications for Principle 1.

The request does not alter the conformity of the applicant fishery with the MSC standard.

There are two species of redfish in Division 3LN, the deep-redfish and the Acadian redfish, which have very similar external characteristics, making them difficult to distinguish. Therefore they are fished as a stock complex. Catches are reported collectively and redfish in 3LN is regarded as a management unit composed of these two very similar redfish species.

The assessment team is proposing that the following be inserted in the corresponding sections of the Principle 1 PI tables, interpretation of the PI table (CBxxx) and guidance to Certification Requirements (GCxxxx).

Applicable to Principle 1 overall. Change from “No requirements” to:

#### **CB2.1 (p.144) General Requirements for Principle 1**

Addition: Where species are fished as a stock complex, every Scoring Issue (SI) and Scoring Guidepost (SG) needs a description about how it is being assessed and in case that catch policies are defined on the whole complex, how evidence is supporting the overall goal that “none of the component stocks are reduced below their limit reference point”.

**1.1.1 Stock Status** (p. C145) Change: The stock complex and its components are at level which maintains high productivity and has low probability of recruitment overfishing.

**1.1.2 Reference Points** (p. C147) Change: Limit and target reference points are appropriate for the

stock complex.

Change CB2.3.8. (p. C149): Where species are fished as stock complexes, application of generic reference points need to be justified or specific reference points are to be set. A clear and detailed description is needed if one or more references points are used to evaluate the whole stock complex and/or in cases where the components cannot be separated in the catch/landings; rationale shall be given demonstrating how inferences are made such that applying this TRP to the whole complex will achieve to keep each species component above biologically based limits.

Addition GCB2.3.8.1 (p. GC61): Where species are fished as stock complexes, generic reference points may be set to work relevant to a collective set of components within a larger stock complex. For example, a target reference point can be set to keep fishing mortality around  $2/3F_{MSY}$  for the whole stock complex; the rationale needs to explain how it is expected that applying this TRP to the whole stock complex will achieve to keep each species component above biologically based limits.

**1.1.3 Stock Rebuilding** (p. C154) Change: Where the stock complex or any of the components of the stock complex is depleted, there is evidence of rebuilding of the stock complex or any components of the stock complex within specific timeframe.

**1.2.1 Harvest Strategy** (p. C156) Change: There is a robust and precautionary harvest strategy in place that is applied to individual components of the stock or the entire stock complex.

Addition CB2.5.8 (p. C159): Where species are fished as a stock complex, the team shall provide evidence that the harvest strategy is consistent with the objectives stated for the stock complex and its components.

**1.2.2 Harvest Control Rules and Tools** (p. C160) Change: There are well defined and effective harvest control rules in place that are designed and applied to individual components of the stock or the entire stock complex.

Addition CB2.6.2 (p. C160): Where species are fished as a stock complex, HCRs are in place that are consistent with the harvest strategy and keep the stock complex above limit reference points and maintain a high productivity of each component of the stock complex.

**1.2.3 Information and Monitoring** (p. C161) Change: Relevant information on the stock complex and its component is collected to support the harvest strategy.

Addition CB2.7.1.2 (p. C162): Where species are fished as a stock complex, the team shall provide available information on each component of the stock complex. Information must come from sampling program.

**1.2.4 Assessment of the Stock Status** (p. C163) Change: There is an adequate assessment of the stock complex status, and status of components is considered.

### **3. Implications for assessment (required for fisheries assessment variations only)**

If the variation request is accepted, SAI Global will inform stakeholders by posting a notice on the MSC website about the draft tree and the reasons for modifications to the default tree and allow at least 30 days from the date of posting on the MSC website for comment on the draft tree.

#### **4. Have the stakeholders of this fishery assessment been informed of this request? (required for fisheries assessment variations only)**

No. Stakeholders will be informed by email when both VR and response to VR will be posted.

<b>5. Further Comments</b>
----------------------------

N/A
-----

**6. Confidential Information**

N/A

**EXPEDITED PRINCIPLE 1 ASSESSMENT FOR MAIN RETAINED PRINCIPLE 2 STOCKS**

**7. Main retained Principle 2 stock(s) for which an expedited Principle 1 assessment is sought**

*Please list the stocks for which an expedited P1 assessment is sought. These must be stocks assessed in the existing certified fishery as 'main retained species'*

**8. Evaluation of potential impact on Principle 2**

N/A

**9. Evaluation of potential impact on Principle 3**

N/A

**10. Based on the potential impacts identified in 8 and 9, please list any additions to the expedited assessment requirements given in Annex CL that will be necessary to ensure the fishery is accurately assessed against Principles 1, 2, and 3 with the proposed additional P1 stocks.**

N/A