

Lloyd's Register

Gulf of St Lawrence Northern Shrimp trawl

MSC Variation Request

1 Marine Stewardship Council variation request

Table 1 – Variation request

1	Date submitted to MSC
	- Please note the MSC will usually respond within 14 days, but for complex variations, longer may be necessary. The MSC will keep you informed if it will take longer than 14 days.
	19 th September 2019
2	CAB
	Acoura Marine (t/a Lloyd's Register)
3	Fishery name and certificate number or CoC certificate number
	Gulf of St Lawrence Northern Shrimp trawl MSC-F-31159
4	Lead auditor or program manager
	Polly Burns
5	Request prepared by
	Polly Burns
6	Scheme requirement(s) for which variation requested
	7.6.1 The CAB shall nominate a date from which product from a certified fishery is eligible to be sold as MSC certified or bear the MSC ecolabel (the eligibility date). This shall be either: 7.6.1.1 The date of the certification of the fishery; or 7.6.1.2 The publication date of the first Public Comment Draft Report.
7	How many times has a variation for this requirement been accepted for the same assessment of the same fishery?
	- e.g. Fill in 2 nd if a previous extension request on the 60 days requirement for surveillance reports has been accepted, and this request is for an additional time extension on top of that.
	None

Table 1 – Variation justification

1	Proposed variation	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please describe how the CAB proposes to vary from the requirement including, where required, any original deadline date, the length of additional time requested and the exact modified deadline date. 	
	LR are requesting to give this fishery an eligibility date of 18 th September 2019, ahead of the PCDR publication.	
2	Additional time requested	
	Original deadline date	N/A
	Modified deadline date requested	N/A
	Length of additional time requested	N/A
3	Justification	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please explain in detail why the variation is requested and why the change is necessary. This helps the MSC decide whether the variation request should be granted. 	
	<p>This fishery was initially certified on 31st March 2009, and is currently in it's third reassessment. The MSC have previously accepted 2 variation requests extending the certificate till the 17th September 2019. This was granted due to the client group requiring time to implement move on rules in the fishery – a key part of V2.0 of the standard. This has now been achieved and the assessment is progressing with client review underway. The MSC, reasonably, made it clear that no more variation requests for certificate extensions would be granted, which means the certificate has now lapsed. In between the previous certificate expiring and the earliest eligibility date permitted under the requirements (PCDR publication), there is a gap in certification where product is not certified or eligible. This fishery was the first MSC certified fishery in Canada, and has been certified for 10 years.</p> <p>LR are so far determining this fishery will meet the standard and be re-certified, subject to the remaining steps in the process. LR are requesting that the eligibility date is set as the 18th September 2019 to allow product caught between the 18th September 2019 and PCDR publication (likely early November and the original eligibility date) to be stored (under the required traceability processes) and sold as MSC certified (if that is the end result) when this happens. This allows the supply chain used for such a long standing MSC certified fishery to promote and utilise the product caught in this period, after a positive certification result (if that is the case). This offers a compromise to the client group that if the assessment outcome is positive product can then be sold showing the MSC logo, without the risk of a further certificate extension. If the assessment outcome is negative, any product stored will not be sold as MSC certified.</p>	
4	If a fishery assessment, implications for assessment	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Please include any impacts on the assessment/certificate if the request is accepted referencing any other requirements which may be affected, and the risks these implications could have. - e.g. Timeline delays, stakeholder input 	
	The only implication for this assessment is that the traceability systems are adequate for an eligibility date prior to certification.	
5	If a fishery assessment, mitigation of the implication for assessment	
	Please include information how risks of the implications for the assessment that have been identified under the previous question are proposed to be mitigated by the CAB.	

	Given the expiry date of the certificate, the assessment was done on the basis of an eligibility date of PCDR (i.e. before certification) and the systems in place have been audited to reflect that. Although this date is earlier than PCDR, it presents no other difference in auditing requirements. The PCDR will confirm this approach.
6	If a fishery assessment, how many conditions does the fishery have and will their progress be affected (positive or negative)?
	N/A
7	What is the status of the current assessment?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please include the latest version and timing of the report that has been prepared, and an indication when the next report is expected (e.g. the Client and Peer Review Draft Report has been sent to the client and the peer reviewers on 7 June 2018. The Public Comment Draft Report is expected to be ready on 1 September 2018).
	In re-assessment – under client review (Preliminary Draft Report) – peer review due in October.
8	Further comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please include any further relevant information.
	None, thank you.
9	If applicable, additional information added after MSC's request
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please provide information on the traceability at the fishery. How is the client able to segregate and identify by harvest date (or as a minimum by trip date) – and ensure that the risk of product from outside the UoC being incorrectly identified as 'under-assessment' product has been reviewed - (G7.6.1 Target eligibility date in FCR v2.0). LR Response: By any and all factors, harvest date, landing date, production date, and storage. The fishery has been certified for 10 years and has robust CoC systems in place this includes the recording of date and area of harvest, landing date, processing and production date and storage date. Is it proposed that the whole client group – as listed on the certificate – will handle under assessment product? LR Response: No, it would not be the entire client group. It would be the New Brunswick and Quebec producers, and Barry Group from Newfoundland. None of the other client group members are producing shrimp at the moment. If Chain of Custody (CoC) certified, have client group entities applied to CAB to add 'under-assessment' before they handle product? LR Response: LR distributed an email to the client group on 19th September 2019 explaining the requirements with respect to under assessment product (UMAF). Processing plants are applying to their CoC CAB (Intertek) for permission to pack UMAF, in so doing, client group members will confirm that they segregate such product during processing, packing and storage. If not CoC certified, are client group entities aware of 'under-assessment' product requirements? LR Response: The client has confirmed that client group members are aware of the requirements regarding under assessment product..

- **For information, how will the client group entities inform their customers of this change?**

LR Response:

Customers will be informed via emails and phone calls, the client group representative has confirmed this is already being done.

All the client group member processing plants currently have inventory of this product and are aware that it can not be sold as MSC unless this variation is granted and until such time as the PCR is released.

All these plants also have the same COC certifier (Intertek) and Intertek is currently doing an audit at one of the plants, and ergo, is up to speed on this development and the requirement to add UMAF in short order.

LR statement: As part of the fisheries re-assessment, CoC within the fishery has been reviewed. All landings are subject to dockside monitoring. Landings are either made direct to the processors or stored in bonded cold storage facilities – all of which are subject to existing chain of custody certification and so the facility owners are well versed in the traceability requirements set by MSC. The risk to chain of custody, post landing, is therefore considered to be minimal.

The fishery has been certified for 10 years and the client group members have been MSC CoC certified for this period of time and so are well aware of MSC CoC requirements. Therefore, LR considers that the systems in place will ensure UMAF requirements are adhered to.

Template information and copyright

This document was drafted using the 'MSC Variation Request Form v3.0'.

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Template version control

Version	Date of publication	Description of amendment
1.0	1 January 2011	Date of application
1.1	24 October 2011	Updated to include a confidential information section
1.2	10 January 2012	Updated to include more detailed instructions on confidential information section
1.3	14 January 2013	Updated in line with requirements in MSC Certification Requirements v1.3, including P2 to P1 'expedited audit'
2.0	08 October 2014	Updates in line with release of Fisheries Certification Requirements v2.0
2.1	04 October 2016	Updated contact information
3.0	17 December 2018	Release alongside Fisheries Certification Process v2.1

A controlled document list of MSC program documents is available on the [MSC website](http://msc.org) (msc.org)

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