

SAI Global

Lake Erie Multi-species Commercial MSC Fishery Announcement

1. Introduction

This Announcement marks the start of the stakeholder consultation for the re-assessment of this fishery. SAI Global is required to submit this announcement along with the Announcement Comment Draft Report (ACDR) for posting on the MSC website for stakeholder consultation for at least 30 days.

The information SAI Global is required to provide when formally announcing a fishery assessment, including how stakeholders may get involved in the process, is outlined on the following pages.

2. Marine Stewardship Council fishery announcement

Table 1. Fishery announcement.

1	Fishery name																																																
	Lake Erie Multi-species Commercial																																																
2	Assessment number																																																
	First re-assessment																																																
3	Reduced re-assessment (Yes-No)																																																
	No																																																
4	Statement that the fishery is within the scope																																																
	<p>The fishery entering assessment meets the scope requirements in FCP v2.1 7.4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The target species under Principle 1 is neither an amphibian nor a reptile nor a bird nor a marine mammal. - The fishery does not use destructive fishing practices such as poisons or explosives. - The fishery is not conducted under a controversial unilateral exemption to an international agreement. - The client group does not include an entity that has been successfully prosecuted for a forced labour or child labour violation in the last 2 years. - The client group has provided the Certificate Holder Forced and Child Labour Policies, Practices and Measures Template. - The fishery applying for re-certification is not the subject of controversy and/or dispute, and there is a mechanism for resolving disputes within the fishery management system. - The Lake Erie-multi-species commercial is not an enhanced fishery. - The Lake Erie-multi-species commercial is not an introduced species-based fishery. 																																																
5	Unit(s) of Assessment – UoA(s)																																																
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	Unit of Assessment 5 (of 8) Species: Yellow Perch (<i>Perca flavescens</i>) Stock: Lake Erie Yellow Perch, MU1 Geographical Area: Lake Erie: MU1 Harvest method: Small mesh trap net Management System: US Fisheries & Wildlife Service (FWS) / Lake Erie Committee (LEC) / Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Client Group: OCFA Other Eligible fishers: None
	Unit of Assessment 6 (of 8) Species: Yellow Perch (<i>Perca flavescens</i>) Stock: Lake Erie Yellow Perch, MU2 Geographical Area: Lake Erie: MU2 Harvest method: Small mesh trap net Management System: US Fisheries & Wildlife Service (FWS) / Lake Erie Committee (LEC) / Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Client Group: OCFA Other Eligible fishers: None
	Unit of Assessment 7 (of 8) Species: Yellow Perch (<i>Perca flavescens</i>) Stock: Lake Erie Yellow Perch, MU3 Geographical Area: Lake Erie: MU3 Harvest method: Small mesh trap net Management System: US Fisheries & Wildlife Service (FWS) / Lake Erie Committee (LEC) / Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Client Group: OCFA Other Eligible fishers: None
	Unit of Assessment 8 (of 8) Species: Walleye (<i>Sander vitreus</i>) Stock: Lake Erie Walleye Geographical Area: Lake Erie Harvest method: Large mesh gill net Management System: Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), Canada / Lake Erie Committee (LEC) / Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF), Ontario Client Group: OCFA Other Eligible fishers: None
6	Certificate sharing statement No other eligible fishers were recognised at this stage. Certificate sharing is not applicable.
7	Name of proposed team leader Vito Romito meets the Fishery Team Leader Qualification and Competency Criteria outlined in MSC FCP Annex PC Table PC1. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A degree in a relevant subject. ▪ 3 years' fisheries experience. ▪ Pass MSC's fishery team leader training at least every 5 years. ▪ Review any updates to the MSC Fisheries Program Documents at least annually.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pass new versions of the online training prior to undertake assessments against the revised MSC Fisheries Standard or certification process. ▪ Pass the Lead Auditor ISO 19011 course. ▪ Have undertaken 2 MSC fishery assessment or surveillance site visits as a team member in the last 5 years. ▪ Experience in applying different types of interviewing and facilitation techniques. <p>Vito holds a BSc in Ecology and a MSc in Tropical Coastal Management from Newcastle University (UK). His studies were focused on fisheries bycatch and impacts of fishing gears/methods on benthic habitats.</p> <p>He completed MSC’s Fishery Team Leader training both for FCR v.2.0 and FCP v.2.1, and passed the Lead Auditor ISO 19011 course. Vito has undertaken four MSC fishery surveillance site visits in Canada as a team member, in the last 5 years.</p> <p>Vito will be in charge of coordinating the Assessment Team’s work and be responsible for the completion of the re-assessment in accordance with FCP v.2.1.</p> <p>In addition to leading the Assessment Team, Vito will be the team’s expert on Principle 2, RBF and Traceability. He meets the Principle 2, RBF and Traceability components of the Fishery Team Qualification and Competency Criteria in Annex PC Table PC3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 3 years or more experience in research into, policy analysis for, or management of, fishery impacts on aquatic ecosystems. ▪ Pass the MSC’s RBF training course and review any update to the RBF requirements at least annually. ▪ Pass MSC’s Traceability training module. <p>His studies were focused on fisheries bycatch and impacts of fishing gears and fishing methods on benthic habitats in various part of the world. He has more than three years of experience in the assessment of ecosystem effects of fisheries. He passed the MSC’s traceability training.</p> <p>In addition, Vito has a current knowledge of the country, language and local fishery context as well as four assignments in the country or region in which the fishery under assessment is based in the last 10 years.</p> <p>Vito was involved in numerous fisheries projects in North America in the last 5 years, including four MSC surveillance audits of Canadian fisheries, one of which was the 4th surveillance for the Lake Erie Multi-species commercial fishery. He is fluent in English which is the language of harvesters in Lake Erie.</p> <p>Vito does not have any conflicts of interest in relation to the fishery.</p> <p>A summary of his CV has been provided in Appendix 1 (FCP v2.1 7.12.2.c).</p>
8	Names of proposed team members
	<p>Dr. John Casselman is responsible for P1 and meets the Fishery Team Member Qualification and Competency Criteria outlined in MSC FCP Annex PC Table PC2 as well as qualification and competencies for fish stock assessment and fish stock biology/ecology in Table PC3.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A degree in a relevant subject. ▪ 3 years’ fisheries experience. ▪ Pass MSC’s fishery team member training at least every 5 years. ▪ Review of updates to MSC Fisheries Program Documents. ▪ 3 years or more experience of applying relevant stock assessment techniques being used by the fishery under assessment. ▪ 3 years or more experience working with the biology and population dynamics of the target species or species with similar biology. <p>John completed a Ph.D. in Zoology (ecology and environmental physiology) at University of Toronto in 1978. John was involved in long-term studies of the cool-water fish communities of the outlet basin of Lake Ontario</p>

	<p>and the warm-water and cool-water fish communities of the Bay of Quinte. His studies involved long-term trends, year-class strength, and growth dynamics of such species as yellow perch, freshwater drum, and lake whitefish, and he developed stock separation techniques for a number of freshwater species. He has most recently been involved in analysis of long-term datasets and has demonstrated the significant overriding effects of climate on community dynamics and population abundance, year-class strength, and the role of predator-prey interaction, especially in early life stages.</p> <p>John passed MSC’s Fishery Team Member training and was involved as P1 expert in the 2nd, 3rd and 4th surveillance audits of the Lake Erie multi-species commercial fishery. He was a P1 team member in the MSC certification of the Waterhen Lake commercial fishery in 2014 and assisted in its 3rd surveillance audit in 2018.</p> <p>In addition, John has current knowledge of the country, language, and local fishery context as well as two assignments in the country or region in which the fishery under assessment is based in the last 10 years.</p> <p>John was involved in long-term studies of the cool-water fish communities of the outlet basin of Lake Ontario and the warm-water and cool-water fish communities of the Bay of Quinte. His studies involved long-term trends, year-class strength, and growth dynamics of such species as yellow perch, freshwater drum, and lake whitefish, and he developed stock separation techniques for a number of freshwater species.</p> <p>He was involved in the 2nd, 3rd and 4th surveillance audits of the Lake Erie multi-species commercial. John’s mother tongue is English which is the language of harvesters Lake Erie.</p> <p>John does not have any conflicts of interest in relation to the fishery.</p> <p>Robert (Bob) Allain is responsible for Principle 3, and meets the Team Member Qualification and Competency Criteria outlined in MSC FCP Annex PC Table PC2 as well as Principle 3 components of the Fishery Team Qualification and Competency Criteria outlined in MSC FCP Annex PC Table PC3.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A degree in a relevant subject. ▪ 3 years more experience as a practicing fishery manager and/or fishery/ policy analyst. ▪ Passed MSC’s fishery team member training at least every 5 years. ▪ Review of updates to MSC Fisheries Program Documents. ▪ Two assignments in the country or region in which the fishery under assessment is based in the last 10 years. <p>Bob has a Bachelor of Science and is a former senior executive with over 30 years’ experience with Canada’s Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans in fisheries management, strategic policy development and analysis, facilitation and conflict resolution, and mentoring. He passed MSC’s Fishery Team Member training and was involved in numerous MSC fisheries assessments in Canada in the last 5 years, including in the 3rd and 4th surveillance audit of the Lake Erie multi-species commercial fishery.</p> <p>In addition, Bob has a current knowledge of the country, language and local fishery context as well as two assignments in the country or region in which the fishery under assessment is based in the last 10 years. He was involved in the 3rd and 4th surveillance audits of the Lake Erie multi-species commercial fishery. Bob’s mother tongue is English which is the language of harvesters in Lake Erie. Bob is based in New Brunswick, Canada and was involved in numerous MSC fisheries assessments in Canada and U.S. in the last 5 years.</p> <p>Bob does not have any conflicts of interest in relation to the fishery.</p> <p>A summary of their CVs has been provided in Appendix 1 (FCP v2.1 7.12.2.c).</p>
9	Stakeholder opportunities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Announcement Comment Draft Report – posted 20 Dec. 2019 • See/complete ‘MSC Template for Stakeholder Input into Fishery Assessments v3.0’ at https://www.msc.org/for-business/certification-bodies/supporting-documents

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site visit: all team members will be available to meet either in person or remotely (FCP v2.1 7.12.2.e.i)
10	Assessment tree to be used
	The tree applied will be the default tree.
11	Estimated timeline
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The PCDR is estimated to be ready by the 15th April 2020 The Final report is estimated to be ready by the 19th August 2020 A separate assessment timeline has also been posted to the MSC website.
12	Site visit
	<p>All relevant and interested participants and stakeholders are invited to the site visits. The site visits will likely take place on week 1, 2, 3 or 4 (to be decided) of February 2020. The site visit will take place in a number of location (TBD), some of which will include the Ontario Commercial Fisheries' Association office on 2-45 James Street, Blenheim, Ontario, and other locations in Ontario and Ohio to meet management, science and enforcement representatives. The team also plans to visit one or two major port/landing areas to meet with local harvesters, see the fishing vessels and gears employed and use their input and expertise to complete RBF components of this assessment (more below).</p> <p>Stakeholder input commences is to be provided on the Announcement Draft Report. Because the Audit Team is using the Risk-Based Framework (RBF), a key purpose of the site visit is to collect information and to speak to stakeholders with an interest in the fishery. For those parts of the assessment involving the MSC's RBF see http://www.msc.org/about-us/standards/methodologies/fam/msc-risk-based-framework Please note we will be using a stakeholder-driven, qualitative analysis during the site visit. To achieve a robust outcome from this consultative approach, we rely heavily on participation of a broad range of stakeholders with a balance of knowledge of the fishery. We encourage any stakeholders with experience or knowledge of the fishery to participate in these meetings (as per FCP v2.1 7.12.3 and Annex PF2.3.2). Specific expertise/knowledge with regards to channel catfish and freshwater drum biology and fishing dynamics, and with the trophic interaction and food-web effect of walleye and yellow perch fisheries on other species in the ecosystem would be most valuable.</p>
13	Assessment tree modifications
	No assessment tree modifications.

3. Stakeholder Input into Fishery Assessments

The fishery will now enter a phase of stakeholder input on the Announcement Comment Draft Report and an information gathering phase prior to assessment site visit. A key purpose of this stage is to collect information on the fishery and in particular to speak to representatives of the fishery, fishery management and environmental management bodies.

Therefore, SAI Global wishes to invite organisations or individuals with an interest in this fishery to meet with the Assessment Team and/or provide information relevant to the assessment process.

SAI Global would like to encourage stakeholders not to withhold information, including their concerns and knowledge about the fishery in question. At the same time we must inform you that we are unable to reference or use information that cannot be shared with all stakeholders. An exception may be possible where the information relates to either; 1) financial transactions about certification; 2) the financial affairs of individual companies or information that may lead to this information being made public, or; 3) information that is the subject of relevant national privacy or data protection legislation in the Client's country.

Prior to becoming involved, and to ensure effective participation in the MSC process, SAI Global would encourage stakeholders to familiarise themselves with the process using the resources provided on the MSC's website (www.msc.org).

The Assessment Team will be available for direct consultations with stakeholders during the period specified in the "Stakeholder consultation" Section of the Table 1 above.

Comments on the Announcement Comment Draft Report shall be submitted by: 17:00 UTC on the 27th of January 2020.

If you would like to speak with the Assessment Team, please advise us of your interest by 17:00 UTC on 24th of January 2020, providing the following details when doing so:

- Your name and contact details.
- Your association with the fishery.
- The issues you would like to discuss (in order for us to arrange appropriate representation).

If you do not wish to be interviewed, or if you are unavailable during the timeframe outlined in Table 1 above, you may instead make a written submission to the Assessment Team. Please note that SAI Global is only permitted to accept stakeholder input as public record if it is submitted using the "MSC Template for Stakeholder Input into Fishery Assessments", or if raised at the same visit in person or remotely (MSC FCP v.2.1 7.15.3). The 'MSC Template for Stakeholder Input into Fishery Assessments' can be found on the MSC website here: <https://www.msc.org/for-business/certification-bodies/supporting-documents>. Stakeholders must provide objective evidence and references in support of any claims or claimed error of fact.

Comments/responses should be sent to:

SAI Global Ireland Client Services

E: ClientServicesie@saiglobal.com

Date: 23 December 2019

Appendix 1: Summary of CVs of team leader and team members

Assessment Team Leader: Vito Romito, Primary Responsibility for P2 and Traceability.

Vito has almost 10 years of expertise in fisheries certification and is an ISO14001 Certified Lead Auditor and MSC FCR v.2.0 and FCP v.2.1 approved Fisheries Team Leader for SAI Global with extensive experience in ecosystems effects of fisheries. Vito received a BSc (Honours) in Ecology and a MSc in Tropical Coastal Management from Newcastle University (U.K.), in between which he worked for a year in Tanzania, carrying out comparative biodiversity assessments of pristine and dynamited coral reef ecosystems around the Mafia Island Marine Park. For five years he worked at Global Trust Certification/ later SAI Global as Lead Assessor for all the fishery assessments in Alaska, Iceland and Louisiana. Vito has also carried out several IFFO forage fisheries assessments in Chile, Peru, Europe and other various pre-assessments in Atlantic and Pacific Canada. To date, Vito has headed and conducted dozens of assessments involving 40+ different species including salmonid, groundfish, pelagic, flatfish, crustacean and cephalopod species in Europe, North and South America, and SE Asia. For three years, as a senior fisheries consultant and then manager with RS Standards Ltd., he was involved in the development and testing of a Data Deficient Fisheries framework and v.2.0 fisheries standard for the ASMI Alaska RFM Scheme, and IFFO RS Improver/FIP projects related to South East Asia multispecies bottom trawl fisheries. Vito re-joined the SAI Global Fisheries Team in 2018 and has since been involved in fisheries assessments in the Baltic Sea, Canada, Iceland, Alaska and Louisiana.

Assessment Team Member: Dr. John Casselman, Primary Responsibility for P1.

Dr John Casselman has experience in marine biology going back more than 40 years including as Senior Aquatic Scientist at J.F. MacLaren, Engineers and Environmental Scientists, and as Research Scientist and as Senior Research Scientist at the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR) from 1973 until 2005. He has most recently been involved in analysis of long-term datasets where he demonstrated the significant overriding effects of climate on community dynamics and population abundance, year-class strength, and the role of predator-prey interaction, especially in early life stages. In 2005, Dr Casselman was awarded the Fruetel Memorial Award of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources for significant contributions to Ontario's fisheries research, assessment, and management programs. In 2008, he received the Award of Excellence of the 10,000-member American Fisheries Society, the most prestigious award of the 138-year-old society, given annually in recognition of original and outstanding contributions to fisheries science and aquatic biology for lifetime achievements as a researcher, mentor, and leader.

Assessment Team Member: Robert (Bob) Allain, Primary Responsibility for P3.

Bob Allain served in Canada's Department of Fisheries and Oceans for 32 years dealing with management, enforcement and policy. While in Government Service, he consulted internationally for the Canadian International Development Agency, the (former) International Centre for Ocean Development, the World Bank, and the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations. He has participated in, and spoken at, international conferences in the United States, Ireland and Australia and has given over 600 media interviews to national and international news agencies while in government service. On behalf of various national (CIDA, ICOD) and international (UNFAO, World Bank) organizations with specific mandates for the advancement of fisheries management and conservation in developing coastal states: Evaluated the effectiveness of national monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) programs of several West African (CECAF) coastal states; studied opportunities for inter-regional cooperation, and prepared comprehensive conceptual reports for improving the organization and delivery of MCS programs. Evaluated the strengths and weaknesses of national fisheries legislation in respect of foreign and domestic fisheries licensing and revenue systems, enforcement responses and effectiveness, penalties and the conservation of marine species.

3. Template information and copyright

This document was drafted using the 'MSC Fishery Announcement Template v2.0'. While amendments have been made to formatting in order to comply with SAI Global's corporate identity, SAI Global has ensured that content and structure follow that of the original template.

The Marine Stewardship Council's 'MSC Fishery Announcement Template v2.01' and its content is copyright of "Marine Stewardship Council" - © "Marine Stewardship Council" 2019. All rights reserved.

Table 3. Template version control.

Version	Date of publication	Description of amendment
1.0	8 October 2014	Date of issue
2.0	17 December 2018	Release alongside Fisheries Certification Process v2.1
2.01	28 March 2019	Minor document change for usability

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

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