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Russian and Estonian Lake Peipus perch and pike-perch

MSC Variation Request

1 Marine Stewardship Council variation request

Table X – Variation request

1	Date submitted to MSC
	14 March 2019
2	CAB
	Marine certification LLC
3	Fishery name and certificate number or CoC certificate number
	Russian and Estonian Lake Peipus perch and pike-perch
4	Lead auditor or program manager
	Dr. Andrew Hough
5	Request prepared by
	Dr. Andrew Hough
6	Scheme requirement(s) for which variation requested
	MSC FCR v.2.0 7.4.10
7	How many times has a variation for this requirement been accepted for the same assessment of the same fishery?
	A variation for this requirements is submitted for the first time

Table X – Variation justification

1	Proposed variation	
	<p>The request is for a minor variation from:</p> <p>Clause 7.4.10</p> <p>We wish to modify the UoA to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) include all licensed fishers in Russia and Estonian waters of Lake Peipus as ‘other eligible fishers’ b) separate Russian and Estonian jurisdictions as separate UoAs – effectively doubling the number of UoAs from 4 to 8 <p>This would not require any changes from original timeline.</p>	
2	Additional time requested	
	Original deadline date	N/A
	Modified deadline date requested	
	Length of additional time requested	
3	Justification	
	<p>At the recent site visit it was clear that the information to be used for the assessment (notably catch data) is that collected at a national level (rather than a UoC sub-section). Accordingly, the assessment will necessarily involve all fishers in both Estonia and Russia.</p> <p>Coincident, the client expressed a willingness to extend access to the certificate to all other fishers, in both Estonia and Russia, which may supply fish to the client group. This is seen as a positive outcome for certification of fisheries in Lake Peipus.</p> <p>Also at the site visit, consideration of harmonisation with other fisheries, a harmonisation discussion with overlapping assessment teams, and discussion with scientists and managers, indicated distinctions between Russian and Estonian management that would be most clearly dealt with by scoring the two systems separately. Hence it is proposed to increase the number of Units of Assessment to include Russian and Estonian fisheries separately.</p> <p>Without prejudice, no stakeholders expressed any concerns with this potential modification to the UoAs. The client is strongly in favour.</p>	
4	If a fishery assessment, implications for assessment	
	<p>No impacts are identified.</p> <p>Stakeholders involved in this assessment have been restricted to client, scientists and managers.</p>	
5	If a fishery assessment, mitigation of the implication for assessment	
	<p>Stakeholders would be informed of the change to UoAs.</p>	
6	If a fishery assessment, how many conditions does the fishery have and will their progress be affected (positive or negative)?	
	<p>N/A the fishery is still in assessment. Ten conditions are expected, these will not be affected by the proposed variation.</p>	

7	What is the status of the current assessment?
	The site visit ended on 22 February 2019 and the Client Draft Report is being prepared (expected to be sent to the client in May 2019).
8	Further comments
	N/A
9	If applicable, additional information added after MSC's request
	<p>The 'other eligible fishers' use exactly the same gear in the same way. This inclusion of 'other eligible fishers' would mirror the situation already in place for the Estonian 'Lake Peipus Perch and Pikeperch Fishery' (certified) and 'Russian Lake Peipus Perch and Pikeperch Fishery'.</p> <p>The other eligible fishers were considered at the site visit. Consultations with stakeholders were carried out on the basis of the effects of each of the Estonian and Russian fisheries <i>in toto</i> – so the effects of both fisheries were considered with stakeholders (re 7.9.1.1) . Preliminary scoring has been carried out on this basis of the same (re 7.10.1) – all fishers in both Estonian and Russian waters. This will also simplify harmonisation with existing fisheries in both jurisdictions.</p>