

Marine Stewardship Council - Variation Request Form V1.3

Date submitted to MSC	29 July 2013
Conformity Assessment Body	Intertek Moody Marine
Fishery Name/CoC Certificate Number	Lake Erie Multi-species Commercial
Lead Auditor/Programme Manager	Ian Scott
Scheme requirement(s) to vary from	CR27.4
Is this variation sought in order to undertake an expedited P1 assessment (CR annex CL)?	No

1. Proposed variation

A change in the defined Assessments and Units of Certification.

The initial proposal covered the following 23 UoC.

Lake Erie Multi-species Commercial				
# UoC	Species/Stock	Management	Area	Gear
4	Yellow Perch	DFO/LEC/Ontario	QZ1 QZ2 QZ3 (E), QZ3 (W)	Gill net
3	Yellow Perch	FWS/LEC/Ohio	MU1 MU2 MU3	Trap net
1	White Perch	DFO/Ontario	Lake Erie	Gill net
1	White Perch	FWS/Ohio	Lake Erie	Gill net
1	White Bass	DFO/Ontario	Lake Erie	Gill net
1	White Bass	FWS/Ohio	Lake Erie	Trap net
3	Whitefish	DFO/Ontario	QZ1 QZ2 QZ3	Gill net
3	Whitefish	FWS/Ohio	MU1 MU2 MU3	Trap net
4	Walleye	DFO/LEC/Ontario	QZ1 QZ2 QZ3 (E), QZ3 (W)	Gill net
2	Rainbow Smelt	DFO/Ontario	QZ2 QZ3	Trawl

Note – White Perch FWS Ohio is incorrectly defined as gill net – it is trap net.

We now propose to assess the Lake Erie Multi-species Commercial by four assessments (an approach similar to <http://www.msc.org/track-a-fishery/fisheries-in-the-program/certified/north-west-atlantic/Canada-offshore-northern-and-striped-shrimp> that was separated into three distinguished by area). The number of UoC is 15.

Lake Erie Yellow Perch				
# UoC	Species/Stock	Management	Area	Gear
1	Yellow Perch	DFO/LEC/Ontario	Lake Erie QZ1	Gill net
2	Yellow Perch	DFO/LEC/Ontario	Lake Erie QZ2	Gill net
3	Yellow Perch	DFO/LEC/Ontario	Lake Erie QZ3(E)	Gill net
4	Yellow Perch	DFO/LEC/Ontario	Lake Erie QZ3(W)	Gill net
5	Yellow Perch	FWS/LEC/Ohio	Lake Erie MU1	Trap Net
6	Yellow Perch	FWS/LEC/Ohio	Lake Erie MU2	Trap Net
7	Yellow Perch	FWS/LEC/Ohio	Lake Erie MU3	Trap Net
Lake Erie Walleye				
# UoC	# UoC	# UoC	# UoC	# UoC
1	Walleye	DFO/LEC/Ontario	Lake Erie Western Stock	Gill net
Lake Erie White Bass & Lake whitefish				
# UoC	Species/Stock	Management	Area	Gear
1	White Bass	DFO/LEC/Ontario	Lake Erie	Gill net
2	White Bass	FWS/LEC/Ohio	Lake Erie	Trap net
3	Lake Whitefish	DFO/LEC/Ontario	Lake Erie	Gill net
4	Lake Whitefish	FWS/LEC/Ohio	Lake Erie	Trap net
Lake Erie Rainbow Smelt and White Perch				
# UoC	Species/Stock	Management	Area	Gear
1	Rainbow Smelt	DFO/LEC/ Ontario	Lake Erie	Trawl
2	White Perch	DFO/LEC/Ontario	Lake Erie	Gill net
3	White Perch	FWS/LEC/Ohio	Lake Erie	Trap net

2. Rationale/Justification

Each of the assessments is consistent with the MSC standard. The proposed change greatly simplifies the approach and reduces the potential for delay. The split into four assessments largely reflects the management mandate of the Lake Erie Committee (LEC) and the assigned responsibilities of the various LEC task groups, responds to the dissimilar status of the fisheries that may lead to different issues in the certification process and separates the two “invasive” species. It is thought likely that some assessments will be able to progress more rapidly than others. Yellow perch (YP) and walleye (WE) stocks are relatively well understood and the RBF will only be used for some P2 PIs. The 4 YP MUs represent 4 putative stocks, each with its own assessment and TAC setting process. This YP stock structure may change as the new YP management plan emerges over next 2 years. The LE WE

is split into two stocks only one of which will be covered by the assessments.

Lake whitefish and White bass are relatively data poor, and the fisheries have limited management; there will be a need to use the RBF for all Pls. Rainbow smelt and White perch are naturalized introduced species (>100 years) and there may be a different approach with the assessment tree for this assessment. The 15 UoCs compare to the previous 23.

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

The split into four assessments will facilitate the orderly completion of the assessment to the benefit of the process and the client. The approach will also greatly reduce the potential for confusion amongst stakeholders. There will be one site visit by the audit team to cover all assessments.

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

No. An announcement will be posted on the MSC web site and identified stakeholders will be informed by direct email.

5. Further Comments

The pre assessment completed in 2009 covered Yellow Perch / Gill Net / Ontario (i.e., Proposed Yellow perch UoC 1-4). The client elected to proceed to a main assessment with six species / three gears / two jurisdictions without a new pre-assessment but with the lead auditor making an initial site visit to confirm the details of the assessment. This variation request results from that visit.

6. Confidential Information

None