

## Stakeholder Notification

### **British Columbia Chum Salmon British Columbia Pink Salmon British Columbia Sockeye Salmon**

#### **Scope of the Fisheries Certificate - Change in the point at which fish and fish products may enter a Chain of Custody**

In June 2014, Intertek Fisheries Certification considered, and herein, respond to a request from the client group to revise the scope of the above fisheries including; BC chum salmon (WCVI, ISC and Fraser UoCs), BC pink salmon (NCC, ISC and Fraser UoCs) and, BC sockeye salmon (Skeena, Nass, Barkley Sound and Fraser UoCs).

The MSC Public Certification Reports for the above certified fisheries stated that the integrity of the landings for MSC Chain of Custody requirements was only checked to the first point of landing and that MSC chain of custody requirements began there. This ensured that product being handled and transported to the members of the client group, i.e. those eligible to label and sell MSC certified salmon, was not mixed with non-certified salmon.

The client group for the fisheries certification – Canadian Pacific Sustainable Fisheries Society - has requested that the scope of the certification is reviewed and consideration given to extending it to the point at which the eligible client group members take ownership of the salmon. In many commercial salmon fisheries, this occurs directly between harvester and client group member. However, in the case of some commercial fisheries, First Nation Excess Salmon to Spawning Requirement fisheries and First Nation Economic Opportunity fisheries; First Nation Commercial Fishing Entities (FNCFE) may take ownership of the certified salmon at point of landing and sell on client member companies to process and sell the final products. To reduce the financial and administrative burden on FNCFEs and also the client group members, the client has requested that these entities be included within the fishery certification

Intertek Fisheries Certification has reviewed this request and, in so doing, considered the existing traceability systems in place within the fishery and from the point of landing of salmon to the point that client group members take ownership. It is noted that:

- Only licensed harvesters can prosecute the fishery;
- Landing declarations are cross-checked with buyer reports;
- Salmon is not processed at sea by harvesters;
- Salmon cannot be easily substituted by other fish;
- Trans-shipping does not take place.
- Companies taking ownership either directly from harvesters or via FNCFEs are client members and are required to meet MSC Chain of Custody requirements.

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It is concluded that the risk of non-certified product entering the chain of custody is minimal by including the FNCFEs. Therefore the scope of the fisheries certificates can be extended to the point at which the eligible client group members take ownership of the certified salmon. Thereafter, chain of custody programmes will commence with the client group members. It should be noted that:

- The client group members are required to have systems in place that will allow chain of custody auditors to trace back the origin of the salmon.
- Each client group member shall make the Conformity Assessment Bodies (CAB) that has certified them for chain of custody aware of the change in scope so that when conducting future surveillance and certification audits they confirm that it is permissible for clients to buy from non MSC chain of custody certified FNCFEs.
- If any of the units of certification change for any reason, then the point at which chain of custody begins will be reviewed to ensure that traceability systems are still adequate.

The fisheries certificates will be amended to take account of this change and posted on the MSC website.

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