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Announcement of intent to undertake an expedited scope extension assessment of the VA-Delta Kamchatka salmon fisheries to include the Ozernaya sockeye salmon fishery.

MRAG Americas intends to carry out an expedited assessment of the Ozernaya sockeye salmon fishery. If successful, this Unit of Assessment will be added to the currently valid VA-Delta Kamchatka salmon MSC certificate. As the VA-Delta Kamchatka salmon fishery covers pink, chum, and coho salmon caught using the same gears and including the same fishing areas as those for the Ozernaya sockeye fishery, the assessment will only entail assessing Ozernaya sockeye against Principle 1 of the MSC Standard, as the remaining components of the fishery will remain unchanged, as identified by a preliminary gap analysis.

This scope extension is being carried out for Ozernaya sockeye in lieu of a separate reassessment for this fishery (Ozernaya sockeye is currently certified under its own certificate), in an effort to increase efficiency and minimize duplication in assessments. This expedited scope extension will evaluate the Ozernaya sockeye salmon fishery against MSC Principle 1 using the assessment tree contained within the 2016 Public Certification Report for the VA-Delta Kamchatka salmon fishery. The assessment of Principles 2 and 3 leading to the existing certification for the chum, coho and pink fisheries, which are the same as for Ozernaya sockeye, will remain unchanged when considering Ozernaya sockeye for recertification, as no aspects of the management or environmental impacts are different.

The preliminary gap analysis has identified the following components as held in common between the two assessments: Principle 2 all components, and Principle 3 governance and policy and fisheries specific management. Those components found not to be held in common are as follows: Principle 1 all components. We will make a final determination of components needing assessment following the information gathering and site visit phase of the expedited assessment.

Table 1: Preliminary overview of planned treatment of each PI in the scope extension assessment of the VA-Delta W. Kamchatka salmon fisheries to include Ozernaya sockeye salmon.

Performance Indicator	Consideration during scope extension
1.1.1. Stock Status	New assessment of Ozernaya sockeye
1.1.2. Reference Points	New assessment of Ozernaya sockeye
1.1.3. Stock Rebuilding	New assessment of Ozernaya sockeye
1.2.1. Harvest Strategy	New assessment of Ozernaya sockeye
1.2.2. Harvest Control Rules and Tools	New assessment of Ozernaya sockeye
1.2.3. Information and Monitoring	New assessment of Ozernaya sockeye
1.2.4. Assessment of stock status	New assessment of Ozernaya sockeye
1.3.1. Enhancement outcome	New assessment of Ozernaya sockeye, non-enhanced fishery.
1.3.2. Enhancement management	New assessment of Ozernaya sockeye
1.3.3. Enhancement information	New assessment of Ozernaya sockeye
2.1.1. Retained species outcome	No new assessment-gears and fishing areas already assessed under VA-Delta Kamchatka salmon assessment for pink, chum and coho.
2.1.2. Retained species management	No new assessment, as above.
2.1.3. Retained species information	No new assessment, as above.
2.2.1. Bycatch species outcome	No new assessment, as above.
2.2.2. Bycatch species management	No new assessment, as above.
2.2.3. Bycatch species information	No new assessment, as above.
2.3.1. ETP species outcome	No new assessment, as above.
2.3.2. ETP species management	No new assessment, as above.
2.3.2. ETP species information	No new assessment, as above.
2.4.1. Habitat outcome	No new assessment, as above.
2.4.2. Habitat management	No new assessment, as above.
2.4.3. Habitat information	No new assessment, as above.
2.5.1. Ecosystem outcome	No new assessment, as above.
2.5.2. Ecosystem management	No new assessment, as above.
2.5.3. Ecosystem information	No new assessment, as above.
3.1.1. Legal and customary framework	No new assessment-governance and policy for the sockeye fishery are the same as for the other fisheries in this Western Kamchatka region.
3.1.2. Consultation roles and responsibilities	No new assessment, as above.
3.1.3. Long term objectives	No new assessment, as above.
3.1.4. Incentives for sustainable fishing	No new assessment, as above.
3.2.1. Fishery specific objectives	No new assessment—fishery specific management is the same as for the other fisheries in the Western Kamchatka region.
3.2.2. Decision making processes	No new assessment, as above.
3.2.3. Compliance and enforcement	No new assessment, as above.
3.2.4. Research plan	No new assessment, as above.
3.2.5. Monitoring and management performance evaluation	No new assessment, as above.