

Marine Stewardship Council - Variation Request

Date submitted to MSC	14 th June 2018
Name of CAB	SAI Global
Fishery Name/CoC Certificate Number	Newfoundland & Labrador snow crab fishery / Certificate number: F-SAI-032
Lead Auditor/Programme Manager	Ivan Mateo/Julie McDonald
Scheme requirement(s) for which variation requested	GCR (v.2.1) 7.5.6 The CAB shall issue a certificate with a maximum validity period of 5 years from the issue date
Is this variation sought in order to fulfil IPI requirements (FCR 7.4.14)?	No

1. Proposed variation
SAI Global would like to further extend the certificate for 16 days, from 15 th July 2018 to 31 st July 2018.
2. Rationale/Justification
<p>A first VR to extend the certificate from 15th April 2018 to 15th July 2018 was granted in November 2017. SAI Global would like to extend further the certificate for 16 days. Further delay occurred in the re-assessment process that will prevent the process to be completed by July 15th. However, the snow crab fishing season in NAFO Div 3LNO, included within the scope of the UoA, closes on July 31st.</p> <p>The reasons of this delay is that the management agency DFO has been evaluating different reference points and harvest control rules for NFL crab. As a consequence the re-assessment process got delayed for several months as the team waited on DFO to come up with robust reference points, harvest control rules to be adopted.</p> <p>On late April 2018, the re-assessment team received a communication from the client ASAP that due to other management issues (cod and shrimp stock decline), the framework assessment for the Newfoundland Crab Limit Reference Points which is critical to evaluate the fishery was delayed until June for peer review. Furthermore there were delays on DFO to sign off the client action plan for conditions 1 and 2.</p> <p>In addition, the re-assessment team considered the outcome of the Scotian Shelf snow crab expedited audit report posted on the 29th March 2018, re-scored PI 2.3.1 ETP species, and raised a new condition on 2.3.1 related to cumulative impacts on the North Atlantic right whale. The client needed time to consult with DFO on the client action plan.</p> <p>By the 15th July 2018, the PCDR will already be posted with the re-assessment team's recommendation on the recertification of the fishery. SAI Global confirms that it is not aware at this time of any factor (related either to fishery status, or performance against conditions) that could result in the fishery no longer being in compliance with the MSC Fisheries Standard.</p> <p>These requests do not alter the conformity of the Newfoundland & Labrador snow crab fishery with the relevant MSC standard. The sustainability of the fishery is unaffected by this change.</p>
3. Implications for assessment (required for fisheries assessment variations only)

A positive response to this VR will allow the fishery not to be penalised with no impact on the supply chain, i.e snow crab caught during the whole fishing season to be labelled as MSC certified.

If the VR is accepted, Ecert will be updated to reflect changes including providing a certificate covering the period from the end of the current certificate to the date accepted in the variation response.

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

SAIG informed the client but not the other stakeholders. Stakeholders will be notified once the MSC's response to the VR will be provided.

5. Further Comments

N/A