



Marine Stewardship Council - Variation Request

Date submitted to MSC	19 th August 2016
Name of CAB	Acoura Marine
Fishery Name	British Columbia Salmon
Programme Manager	Polly Burns
Scheme requirement(s) for which variation requested	FCR 7.3.4 (.1 - .3) If the period from full assessment announcement to the receipt of the Public Comment Draft Report by the MSC exceeds 9 months the CAB shall: ...
Is this variation sought in order to fulfil IPI requirements (FCR 7.4.14)?	No

1. Proposed variation

The public comment draft report will be submitted to the MSC after the 9-month deadline, with a delay of 5 months (i.e., to submit the PCDR by 20th December 2016).

2. Rationale/Justification

The BC Salmon Fishery entered reassessment on the 27th October 2015. Under MSC CR v.2.0 the Public Comment Draft Report (PCDR) should be submitted to the MSC by the 27th June 2016, 9 months after the fishery was announced.

A Variation Request for the BC Salmon Fishery was submitted to the MSC and published on 23rd June 2016. This VR requested a 2-month extension to the assessment such that the PCDR would be presented for stakeholder consultation beyond the standard 9 month period. The Variation Request for an extension was accepted.

Subsequently, the client informed the CAB that discussions between the client and DFO (the managers of the fishery) indicated that it would not be possible for the client to obtain detailed input to the Client Action Plan from DFO at this time, and that a longer time period for developing the Client Action Plan would be needed. The delay is because the BC salmon fishing season is underway, and key DFO staff members are fully engaged with managing the fishery. In addition, the majority of the conditions are complex in nature; developing the Client Action Plan to ensure sufficient resources could be committed to delivering any work plans is expected to require internal and possibly external consultation, together with considerable planning. It was confirmed by DFO that this would not be possible in a short space of time, and that a delay of up to 5 months from the original timeline will be needed.

The CAB considers that a further delay to the submission of the PCDR is warranted in order to ensure that a robust and detailed methodology can be developed for each of the conditions.



We do not anticipate that there will be any further risks to the MSC process or Standard as a result of this delay. For the three species in the assessed fishery, sockeye salmon is experiencing low abundance such that few fishery openings are anticipated, it is an 'off' year for the Fraser pink salmon so there is no expectation of harvest, and chum salmon still has 18 months to run on the existing BC chum salmon certificate.

The PCDR will be submitted to the MSC for publication by the 20th December 2016; 5 months after the current deadline.

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

The three currently certified fisheries (BC Chum, Pink and Sockeye salmon) which have consolidated to form this fishery will not be affected by following these steps.

To ensure the process continues to progress, stakeholders will not be offered an opportunity to provide new information to the assessment, but have taken existing opportunities to submit information. Additionally, as per the normal process, stakeholders will have the opportunity to comment on the published PCDR during the 30-day consultation period.

It is a consideration that during the site visit, the Assessment Team was informed by one group of stakeholders that releasing the PCDR during the salmon season would mean that they may not be able to engage fully with the consultation, and so Acoura is hopeful that releasing the report for consultation outside of the main salmon season will better enable stakeholders to review and comment on the report.

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

Stakeholders have not been informed by Acoura, but the client has confirmed to us that they have been in discussion with stakeholders concerning the likely delay.

Stakeholders will also be notified on the posting of this variation request.

5. Further Comments

We note that the client has already engaged in detailed discussions with DFO, and we understand that DFO will be providing confirmation of their support for the process of leading towards a Client Action Plan in the near future. The Assessment Team has also been in early discussions with the client and DFO and is content that progress is being made.