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MRAG Americas, Inc.

VA-Delta Kamchatka Salmon Fisheries

MSC Variation Request

Table 1 – Variation request

1	Date submitted to the MSC
	- Please note the MSC will usually respond within 14 days, but for complex variations, longer may be necessary. The MSC will keep you informed if it will take longer than 14 days.
	23 March 2021
2	CAB
	MRAG Americas, Inc.
3	Fishery name and certificate number
	VA-Delta Kamchatka salmon fisheries, MSC-F-31265
4	Lead auditor or program manager
	Amanda Stern-Pirlot
5	Request prepared by
	Michealene Corlett
6	Scheme requirement(s) for which variation requested
	FCP 7.25.1
7	How many times has a variation for this requirement been accepted for the same assessment of the same fishery?

0

Table 2 – Variation justification

1	Proposed variation	
	<p>FCP 7.25.1 states “If the CAB makes a decision to award certification, the CAB shall determine that the date of certification is the date the Public Certification Report is published on the MSC website or, for reassessments, the 5th anniversary date of the existing certificate, whichever is later.”</p> <p>Due to the Covid-19 derogation the current certificate expiration date for this fishery is 12 March 2022 (originally 12 September 2021). At the client’s request and if the recertification assessment is successful, we propose recertifying the fishery before the 5th anniversary date. If approved, this request would result in the fishery being recertified more than 6 months before the 5th certificate anniversary date.</p> <p>Original certificate expiry date was 12 September 2021 Covid-19 extension 12 March 2022 Requested recertification date: June/July 2021</p>	
2	Additional time requested (in this case, less time requested)	
	Original deadline date	12 March 2022
	Modified deadline date requested	June/July 2021
	Length of additional time requested	Negative 9 months
3	Justification	
	<p>The client wants to recertify earlier than the 5th anniversary of their extended certificate because with this reassessment, one additional stock (coho in the southern management unit) that is now passing P1 and thus if this reassessment is successful, will be eligible to be sold as certified. The client would like the new certificate, which would include newly certified coho salmon, to be issued before the fishing season begins.</p>	
4	Implications for assessment	
	<p>The main impact of this request is that the client would forfeit their current certificate extension thereby losing time on their present certificate. There are no implications for the present assessment except this allowance will better enable the fishery’s audit cycle to remain in line with the seasonality of the fishery (summer only).</p>	
5	Mitigation of the implications for assessment	
	<p>There is no mitigation for this impact, however, it’s worth noting that the 9-month gap between when the fishery would like to be recertified and when its current certificate expired would only have been a 3-month gap, were it not for the COVID derogation. In addition, salmon is a highly seasonal fishery, so the current timing of the certification cycle should remain in correspondence with the summer fishing season.</p>	
6	How many conditions does the fishery have and will their progress be affected (positive or negative)?	
	<p>Conditions will not be affected by this request.</p>	
7	What is the status of the current assessment or audit?	

	The Client and Peer Review Draft Report has been sent to the client and the peer reviewers on 04 March 2021. The Public Comment Draft Report is expected to be ready on 01 May 2021.
8	Further comments
9	If applicable, additional information added after the MSC's request