

Canada Northern and Striped Shrimp Fishery

Variation Request for revisions to the Units of Certification – March 2015

Date submitted to MSC	14 th March 2016
Conformity Assessment Body	Acoura Ltd.
Fishery Name/CoC Certificate Number	Canada Northern and Striped Shrimp
Lead Auditor/Programme Manager	Dr. Rob Blyth-Skyrme / Polly Burns
Is this variation sought in order to fulfil IPI requirements (FCR 7.4.14)?	No

1. Proposed change(s)

To revise the description of the Units of Certification (UoC) that were specified in the Notification Report and so vary against CR v2.0 section 7.4.10;

2. Rationale/Justification

Management of the Canada and Northern Striped Shrimp Fishery has been based on Shrimp Fishing Areas (SFAs) (Figure 1). Each SFA has a separate stock assessment.

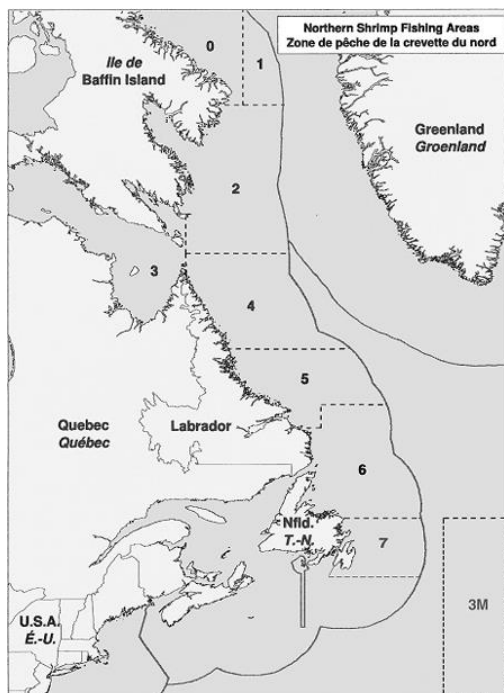


Figure 1: Shrimp Fishing Areas (SFAs) 0-7 in the Canadian Atlantic

For the first certification in 2011, the fishery was divided into UoCs as shown in Table 1, below.

Table 1: UoCs as defined for the first Canada Northern and Striped Shrimp Fishery certification.

UoC	Species	SFAs
1	Northern shrimp (<i>P. borealis</i>)	1
2	Northern shrimp	2, 3, 4, 5, 6
3	Striped shrimp (<i>P. montagui</i>)	2, 3, 4
4	Northern shrimp	7

In 2012, certificate sharing was agreed between the certificate holder and organisations that already held a MSC certification for Northern shrimp in SFA 5, 6 & 7. The new group of organisations did not have an interest in SFAs 1, 2, 3 and 4 so, to maintain this distinction, a certificate for SFA 5 & 6 and SFA 7 was issued with all the clients named.

A certificate for *P. borealis* in SFA 1 and 2, 3 & 4 and for *P. montagui* in SFA 2, 3, & 4; was issued to the original client group members only. As a result, the UoCs were described as shown in Table 2, below.

Table 2: UoCs as described following certificate sharing of the Canada Northern and Striped Shrimp Fishery certification

UoC	Species	SFAs
1	Northern shrimp (<i>P. borealis</i>)	1
2	Northern shrimp	2, 3, 4,
3	Striped shrimp (<i>P. montagui</i>)	2, 3, 4
4	Northern shrimp	5, 6
5	Northern shrimp	7

At the site visit in June 2015 it was shown that as a result of environmental changes there is a decline in abundance in the more southerly SFAs (7, 6, 5). As a result, to avoid the potential of the shift compromising the certification of SFA 5 by being associated with the more southerly SFA 6, we would like to separate UoC 4 (the previous SFA 5, 6 UoC) into two UoCs covering 5 and 6 individually.

The distribution of the shrimp stocks in SFAs 2 and 3 has also been reconsidered recently, and the new assessment areas are called the Eastern Assessment Zone (EAZ) and the Western Assessment Zone (WAZ), as shown in Figure 2.

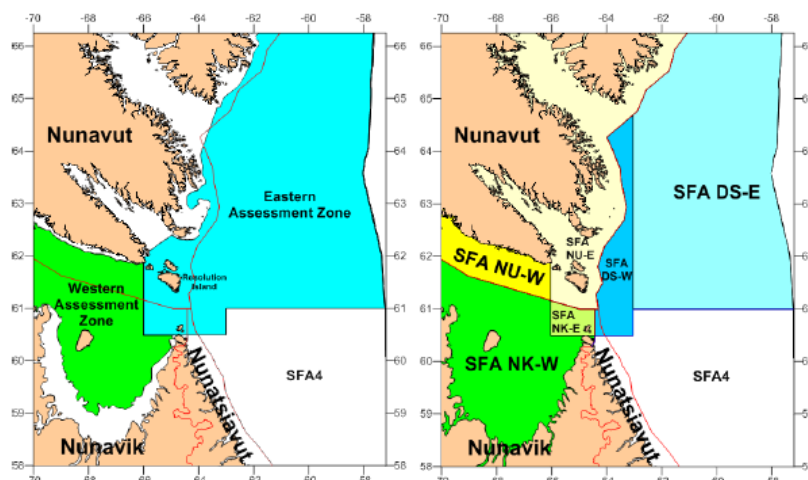


Figure 2: Location of the Western Assessment Zone (WAZ) and Eastern Assessment Zone (EAZ) (left panel) and corresponding Shrimp Fishing Area (SFA) management units (right panel).

As a result of these two issues (the decline in stock distribution to the south and changes to the assessments in the EAZ [old SFA 2] and WAZ [old SFA 3]), we propose now to describe the UoCs as shown in Table 3.

Table 3: The proposed re-described UoCs for the Canada Northern and Striped Shrimp Fishery re-assessment.

UoC	Species	SFAs
1	Northern shrimp (<i>P. borealis</i>)	1
2	Northern shrimp	EAZ, WAZ, 4,
3	Striped shrimp (<i>P. montagui</i>)	EAZ, WAZ, 4
4	Northern shrimp	5
5	Northern shrimp	6
6	Northern shrimp	7

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

No other effects on the assessment process or certificate.

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

No – they will be notified when the response to this request is given.

5. Further Comments

None