



Jean Ragg

Sent by email

Date: 22/06/2016

**Subject: Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement v1.3 CR-27.4.2, CR-27.4.3 and CR-27.8.2 for Canada 3LN redfish**

Dear Jean,

I write with reference to your submission on 06/07/2016 of a request for variations to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow:

- 1) Change in target species of the Unit of Certification from the *redfish stock complex* in NAFO division 3LN to *Sebastes fasciatus* in NAFO division 3LN;
- 2) Change of the assessment tree from the default assessment tree with modifications (for Principle 1), to the default assessment tree with no modifications;
- 3) Fish and fish products to be considered as coming from IPI stocks to enter into chains of custody (A27.4.10).

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to these Requirements (CR-27.4.2, CR-27.4.3 and CR-27.8.2) are integral to ensuring all MSC accredited Conformity Assessment Bodies operate in a consistent and transparent manner. The MSC intends that these requirements be met across all fisheries and CoC certificate holders, except in exceptional, well-justified circumstances, as part of the MSC programme.

MSC notes the factors presented in your letter supporting your request, including:

- The recent survey findings that *S. fasciatus* represents the vast majority (ca. 90%) of landed Redfish (the other being *S. mentella*). This is linked to the related finding that the two redfish species' caught are found to be segregated by depth.
- This survey result rationalises for the use of the default assessment tree (instead of the modified tree used previously for the stock complex).
- The fact that catches of *S. mentella* are difficult to distinguish and comply with MSC IPI requirements (27.4.9.1) mean they can be treated as such.

Given the rationale provided, the MSC is willing to grant a variation to the CR in this case subject to the following conditions:

- Stakeholders are informed;
- A further 30 days of consultation are set-up to allow stakeholders to comment;
- Any stakeholder comments are taken into account and responded to; and,
- ECert is updated to reflect changes in UoC and fishery name (if applicable).



If you have any questions regarding this response, please do not hesitate to the relevant Fisheries Assessment Manager for this fishery.

Best regards,

Marine Stewardship Council  
CC: ASI, lead auditor