



Geraldine Criquet  
SAI Global (SAI)

**Sent by email**

Date: 19/06/2018

**Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement v2.1 GCR-7.5.6 for Newfoundland & Labrador snow crab**

Dear Geraldine Criquet,

I write with reference to your submission on 14/06/2018 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow:

An extension of the certificate for 16 days, from 15th July 2018 to 31st July 2018.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to v2.1 GCR-7.5.6 state:

The CAB shall issue fisheries certificates with a maximum validity period of 5 years from the issue date

These 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 supporting your request, including:**

- 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 results.
- The framework assessment for the Newfoundland Crab Limit Reference Points which is critical to evaluate the fishery was delayed until June for peer review.
- There were delays on DFO to sign off the client action plan for conditions 1 and 2.
- 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.

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

- The CAB can confirm that it is not aware at this time of any factor (related to either fishery status, or performance against conditions) that could result in the fishery no longer being in compliance with the MSC Fisheries Standard.
- Stakeholders are informed.
- ECert is 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.

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

Marine Stewardship Council  
cc: Accreditation Services International