

## Marine Stewardship Council - Variation Request

<b>Date submitted to MSC</b>	3 December, 2018
<b>Name of CAB</b>	MRAG Americas
<b>Fishery Name/CoC Certificate Number</b>	VA-Delta Kamchatka salmon fisheries
<b>Lead Auditor/Programme Manager</b>	Ray Beamesderfer/Amanda Stern-Pirlot
<b>Scheme requirement(s) for which variation requested</b>	PE2.2.2 The CAB shall conduct the expedited assessment either during a special on-site expedited audit or during a regular on-site surveillance audit.
<b>Is this variation sought in order to fulfil IPI requirements (FCR 7.4.14)?</b>	No.

<b>1. Proposed variation</b>
We propose to hold an off-site audit for the Pymta River scope extension to the VA-Delta salmon assessment.
<b>2. Rationale/Justification</b>
Vityza-Avto and Delta Co have joined with two new client fisheries who wish to add Pymta River salmon stocks to the VA-Delta MSC certified fishery. This river is directly between the certified VA-Delta and Narody-Severa Bolsheresk fisheries, and as with all of the Pacific Salmon fisheries, is only conducted in the summer (beginning mid-June). The Pymta River is an indicator river for KamchatNIRO and as such is heavily monitored for escapements and other indicators of stock health. The scope extension is expected only to cover P1 for the four targeted salmon species, as P2 and 3 are already covered (same gears, habitats, management system as the other certified rivers in W. Kamchatka). The assessment team for this fishery is very familiar with Kamchatka salmon fisheries information and management, having assessed and certified several. Information on this river and fishery is readily available remotely, and as the fishery is closed in winter, having an on-site visit would only add considerable time and expense to the assessment, and would take place in Petropavlovsk in a meeting room because there would be no fishery to visit. It is therefore proposed that a remote audit would be conducted via teleconference with the clients, relevant authorities, and any interested stakeholders in late January. The assessment team would then visit the fishery in the summer of 2019 when it's open, and when the team is anyway going to visit other W. Kamchatka fisheries as part of the 2019 surveillance audit.
<b>3. Implications for assessment (required for fisheries assessment variations only)</b>
The implications for the scope extension assessment are as follows: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The scope extension could begin right away, and with a remote audit in January, has a high likelihood of being completed before the 2019 fishing season.</li> <li>2. No negative implication for information availability at the audit. As stated above, this river is well monitored, and information from the fishery is available remotely. The assessment team is very experienced with these fisheries and will gain nothing from traveling to Petropavlovsk in the winter to sit in a meeting room with the clients. In addition, any</li> </ol>

interested stakeholders would also be unlikely to travel to Petropavlovsk in the winter to attend a "site visit." It is impossible to actually visit the fishery in winter.

3. Allowing a remote audit would save the prospective clients a lot of money, and would also be environmentally responsible, as the assessment team would not have to travel from Portland, OR and St Petersburg RU for meetings which can just as effectively be held by telephone.
4. As the actual fisheries will be visited in summer of 2019 when they are open (combined with surveillance audits for other W. Kamchatka fisheries), there is no risk that information on the actual operations of the fishery will be overlooked. Note this risk is also even lower because the assessment team has visited these fisheries a number of times already under the existing W. Kamchatka certifications.

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

No.

**5. Further Comments**

N/A