

Marine Stewardship Council - Variation Request

Date submitted to MSC	12/10/18
Name of CAB	Lloyd's Register (LR)
Fishery Name/CoC Certificate Number	AQIP Gulf of St Lawrence Greenland halibut and Atlantic halibut fixed gear fishery
Programme Manager	Polly Burns
Variation prepared by:	Polly Burns
Scheme requirement(s) for which variation requested	7.8.4.1 The site visit shall commence no earlier than 30 days from the date posting the announcement on the MSC website.
Is this variation sought in order to fulfil IPI requirements (FCR 7.4.14)?	No.

1. Proposed variation	
RBF for PI 1.1.1 will be announced with 23 days between the announcement and site visit.	
2. Rationale/Justification	
RBF was announced as used for 2.2.1 in the AQIP Gulf of St Lawrence Greenland halibut and Atlantic halibut fixed gear fishery on the 28 th September 2018, giving a notice period of 38 days before the site visit begins on the 5 th November 2018. Since further information has been gathered and preparations have advanced it has become evident RBF will also be needed for PI 1.1.1. For efficiency for all those involved, LR would like to hold the stakeholder workshop for PI 1.1.1 during the same week as the already planned site visit. This would mean a reduction in the notice period for RBF site visits. Stakeholders were aware of the fishery using RBF, although not for PI 1.1.1, and of the need for stakeholder engagement well ahead of the site visit.	
3. Implications for assessment (required for fisheries assessment variations only)	
The implications for the assessment will be minimal and accepting this request will help to facilitate effective stakeholder engagement by holding RBF discussions for 2.2.1 and 1.1.1 at the same time. If not accepted this will have timeline consequences as the additional RBF exercise will delay final scoring and process progression.	
4. Have the stakeholders of this fishery assessment been informed of this request? (required for fisheries assessment variations only)	Yes – sent out details of plan to hold the RBF discussions at the site visit with a reduced notice period, pending the outcome of this request.
5. Further Comments	
The announcement for PI 1.1.1 has been posted on the MSC website and stakeholders have been notified to give them as much time as possible to prepare. The announcement includes the clause that an additional RBF announcement will be made should this VR not be accepted.	

6. Confidential Information
No stakeholders have come forward wishing to partake in the surveillance audit or submit RBF info for 2.2.1 to date.