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Marine Stewardship Council Fishery Announcement

Name of Fishery	Manitoba boreal forest lakes walleye, northern pike, yellow perch, lake whitefish, and lake cisco commercial gillnet fishery <i>(previously known as the Waterhen Lake walleye and northern pike gillnet commercial fishery)</i>																
Assessment number	1 st re-assessment																
Reduced re-assessment (Y/N)	N																
Statement that the fishery is within scope	MRAG Americas confirms that this fishery is within scope for MSC assessment.																
Certificate sharing statement	The certificate will not be shared with fishers not initially part of the client group.																
Estimated Length of Full Assessment & Timeline		Month 2018 - 2019															
	Activity	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
	Sign contract																
	Stakeholder consultation (ongoing)																
	MSC announcement of surveillance audit																
	Surveillance audit, stakeholder meetings																
	MSC announcement of reassessment, tree, team, and site visit																
	Modified draft assessment tree announcement and stakeholder consultation																
	Site visit, stakeholder																

	fishery under assessment.
Name(s) of proposed assessors	<p>Mr. Tom Jagielo (Principle 1) has a wide breadth of experience in fisheries science and habitat studies in marine and freshwater systems. He has been a consultant in quantitative fisheries science since 2008. Previously he served for 24 years with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and 6 years with the Fisheries Research Institute at the University of Washington in Seattle. He has specialized in groundfish stock assessment and survey design, to assess marine fish populations for sustainable fisheries management. He has produced groundfish stock assessments for the Pacific Fishery Management Council, including analysis of lingcod, black rockfish, and yelloweye rockfish populations. Tom has experience working with government agencies, commercial and recreational fisheries groups, Native American tribes, community organizations, and both national and international advisory groups. He has received appointments to the Scientific and Statistical Committee of the Pacific Fishery Management Council, the Technical Subcommittee of the US-Canada Groundfish Committee, and the Pacific Coast Ocean Observation System. He has published in peer-reviewed journals and symposium proceedings and has presented papers at national and international meetings. Tom received a B.S. degree in Biology from the Pennsylvania State University, and a M.S. degree in Fisheries from the University of Washington, where he also conducted post M.S. graduate studies in fisheries population dynamics and parameter estimation. Tom has served as an MSC Team Member and Peer Reviewer for fish populations in Europe, Australia, New Zealand and the US.</p> <p>MRAG Americas confirms that Mr. Jagielo meets the competency criteria in Annex PC for team members as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He has an appropriate university degree and more than five years' experience in management and research in fisheries; • He has undertaken at least two MSC fishery assessments or surveillance site visits in the last five years; • He is able to score a fishery using the default assessment tree and describe how conditions are set and monitored. <p>In addition, he has the appropriate skills and experience required to serve as a Principle 1 assessor as described in FCR Annex PC table PC3, and MRAG Americas confirms he has no conflicts of interest in relation to the fishery under assessment.</p> <p>Dr. Sara Adlerstein-Gonzalez (Principle 3) has been a research faculty at the School of Natural Resources and Environment (SNRE) at the University of Michigan for 17 years. She obtained MS degrees in Biology at the University of Concepcion, Chile, and MS and PhD in Fisheries at the University of Washington. She has worked in academia (University of Hamburg in Germany) as well as in organizations devoted to fisheries management (Chilean Fishery Ministry, the International Pacific Halibut Commission) and as an expert on ecosystem effect of fisheries for a number of Marine Stewardship Council certifications for sustainable fisheries. Most recently she participated in the assessment of Lake Erie commercial fisheries and Chilean shrimp fisheries. She teaches statistics, applied ecology and classes that explore multilayer relationships between culture and the environment. Her research programme is centred on applied aquatic ecology, with emphasis on population assessments and ecosystem dynamics with the goals of: (i) improving monitoring and increasing the value of available information; (ii) understanding processes that determine distribution and abundance of aquatic organisms; and (iii) quantifying responses of aquatic communities to stressors and management. Major contributions of her research are in applications for management, including diagnostics of environmental quality and advances in concepts</p>

	<p>related to fish movement and ecosystem food web models.</p> <p>MRAG Americas confirms that Dr. Adlerstein-Gonzalez meets the competency criteria in Annex PC for team members as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She has an appropriate university degree and more than five years' experience in management and research in fisheries; • She has undertaken at least two MSC fishery assessments or surveillance site visits in the last five years; • She is able to score a fishery using the default assessment tree and describe how conditions are set and monitored. <p>In addition, she has the appropriate skills and experience required to serve as a Principle 3 assessor as described in FCR Annex PC table PC3, and MRAG Americas confirms she has no conflicts of interest in relation to the fishery under assessment.</p> <p>The whole assessment team collectively meets the requirements as described in FCR Annex PC table PC3.</p>
Assessment tree to be used	<p>The assessment team proposes various modifications to the assessment tree to accommodate this fishery's enhancement. Refer to the variation request and MSC response, as well as the accompanying rationale, for more details. In summary, the existing PIs and scoring issues of the salmon assessment tree (v1.0) and the default assessment tree were used as the starting point. For each PI, the team considered whether or not enhancement was relevant. Modifications to the relevant PIs are highlighted in red text with accompanying rationale for the modifications, noting if the PI originates from the salmon tree or the default assessment tree. All non-modified PIs will be assessed using the default assessment tree (v.2.0).</p>
Site visit	<p>The site visit will occur 16-19 March 2019 beginning in Winnipeg, MB, Canada and various northern outposts TBD the remaining three days.</p>

MRAG Americas, Inc. is pleased to announce that a Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) assessment of Manitoba boreal forest lakes walleye, northern pike, yellow perch, lake whitefish, and lake cisco commercial gillnet fishery has begun. The assessment will evaluate the fishery for compliance with the MSC's Standard for well-managed and sustainable fisheries. MRAG Americas has determined that the fishery is in scope.

As part of the assessment, MRAG Americas announces that stakeholder meetings and assessment of relevant documentation will be undertaken with a visit to the fishery in 16-19 March 2019. **The assessment team will meet in Winnipeg, MB, Canada the first day and various northern outposts TBD the remainder of the site visits from 16-19 March 2019.** The purpose of these meetings is for a fishery assessment and stakeholder consultation to receive information from fishery representatives, government management agencies, non-governmental organizations, and other interested stakeholders.

MRAG Americas invites stakeholders to provide any information considered relevant, including knowledge and concerns about the fishery and to the assessments of the fishery. Unless covered by FCR 4.4.1 any information that cannot be shared with other stakeholders even under a confidentiality agreement shall not be: referenced in the assessment, used to determine the assessment outcome or used as the basis for an objection to a certification. MRAG will schedule meetings with stakeholders if requested. To schedule a meeting please provide:

- your name and contact details
- your association with the fishery
- the issues you would like to discuss

- where and when you would like to meet

Stakeholders may provide input at any time. We ask stakeholders who wish to meet with the team to make the request for a meeting by 5pm GMT on 09 March 2019.

As noted above, the assessment team proposes using a modified assessment tree for the enhanced UoAs to accommodate the uniqueness of this fishery. We welcome any comments on this proposed approach. Comments should be made as specific as possible to individual performance indicators and scoring guideposts and the suitability of the modified tree in assessing the fishery. Your comments must be submitted by 5pm GMT on 09 March 2019.

The MSC has developed a guide for stakeholder input, available at <https://www.msc.org/what-you-can-do/engage-with-a-fishery-assessment> and a template for stakeholder response can be found at https://20.msc.org/docs/default-source/default-document-library/stakeholders/msc-template-for-stakeholder-input-v2-0.doc?sfvrsn=b6409075_4. You may use the template or provide your response in any other format.

More information on the fishery is available at <https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/waterhen-lake-walleye-and-northern-pike-gillnet-commercial/@@view>.

Please send any documentation, requests for meetings, or inquiries to:
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Date: 05 February 2019

Appendix 1: Client certificate sharing statement

N/A – please see certificate sharing arrangements already in place for this fishery

Appendix 2: CVs of team leader and team

CVs provided as separate PDF documents downloadable from the MSC website here:

<https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/waterhen-lake-walleye-and-northern-pike-gillnet-commercial/@@view>