

Stakeholder Advisory regarding SAI Global's intention to conduct Surveillance Audit outside of allowed for 6 month window

US Acadian redfish, haddock and pollock otter trawl fishery

SAI Global wishes to notify stakeholders that we intend to carry out the 1st surveillance audit of the above fishery outside of the 6 month window allowed for under MSC FCR 7.23.6.1.

7.23.6.1 CABs may elect to undertake surveillance audits up to 6 months earlier or later than the anniversary date, where this deviation is appropriate given the circumstances of the fishery.

On Monday 9th April 2018, SAI Global submitted a Variation Request to undertake the surveillance audit more than 6 months later than the certificate anniversary date. Given that the Variation Request was submitted on the deadline for the client to provide a corrective action plan to avoid the fishery certificate being withdrawn (see below), it was considered to be a retrospective Variation Request.

The MSC GCR v2.1 4.12.2.3 prevents a CAB from submitting a retrospective Variation Request. Therefore, as SAI Global has noticed that something should have been changed for the fishery client but it is too late to submit a Variation Request, SAI Global is required to create an advisory for stakeholders regarding our proposed action, including an explanation for why the deviation occurred and how it is being addressed; this document represents that advisory.

Why deviation occurred

The fishery was certified on July 5th, 2016 so the 1st surveillance audit should have been announced no later than December 5th, 2017 and undertaken no later than January 5th, 2018. However, this did not take place due to ongoing changes within the client group membership which resulted in the certificate holder's not being in a position to allow SAI Global hold a surveillance audit within the required timeframe.

On 9th January 2018, as the certificate holder had still not committed to allowing SAI Global to conduct the 1st surveillance audit as required, the MSC certificate for the fishery was suspended and the certificate holder advised that they had 90 days, until Monday 9th April 2018, in which to submit a satisfactory corrective action plan to avoid the fishery's certificate being withdrawn.

On 7th April 2018, the certificate holder entered an agreement with SAI Global authorising SAI Global to conduct the 1st surveillance audit of the fishery. As this agreement effectively addressed the reason for suspensions, SAI Global re-instated the fishery's certificate.

How deviation is being addressed

In order to return the fishery to conformity with the prescribed timeframes and requirements (as outlined in the MSC FCR v2.0) the following will take place:

- SAI Global will conduct the 1st surveillance audit of this fishery albeit outside the allowed for window.
- The 2nd surveillance audit for this fishery will take place within 6 months of the 2nd anniversary of the certificate (i.e. by 5th January 2019).
- A total of 4 surveillance audits will still be held during the lifetime of this certificate.
- The 4th surveillance audit will still be held not later than 6 months after the 4th anniversary of the certificate date.

Consequence of the Deviation

This deviation will result in the 1st surveillance of this fishery being conducted outside of the allowed for 6 month window.

In this instance the level of risk posed by the proposed action is deemed low as SAI Global 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. In addition, should the surveillance audit find that Year 1 surveillance milestones are not met, revised milestones will require that remedial action bring the process back on track by the 2nd surveillance audit (i.e. by January 2019).

Stakeholders will be fully informed of the new date of the Surveillance Visit and Ecert will be updated with relevant timeline information.

Should you wish to obtain further information on the Marine Stewardship Council, this is available on their web site at <http://www.msc.org>.

In addition documents relating specifically to this fishery can be viewed via the following link:
<https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/us-acadian-redfish-haddock-and-pollock-otter-trawl-fishery/@assessments>

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