



8950 Martin Luther King Jr. St. N, #202
St. Petersburg, Florida 33702-2211
Tel: (727) 563-9070
Fax: (727) 563-0207
Email: MRAG.Americas@mragamericas.com

President: Andrew A. Rosenberg, Ph.D.

Announcement of intent to undertake an expedited scope extension assessment of the VA-Delta Western Kamchatka salmon fisheries to include the Pymta River salmon fisheries.

MRAG Americas intends to carry out an expedited assessment of the Pymta River pink (*Oncorhynchus gorbuscha*), chum (*O. keta*), coho (*O. kisutch*), and sockeye (*O. nerka*) salmon fisheries. If successful, these Units of Assessment will be added to the currently valid VA-Delta Western Kamchatka salmon MSC certificate which includes pink, chum, and coho as Principle 1 species. As the fishery is conducted using the same gears and in the same habitat areas as the certified VA-Delta fishery and under the same management system, the assessment will only entail assessing Pymta River pink, chum, coho, and sockeye salmon against Principle 1 of the MSC Standard, as the remaining components of the fishery will remain unchanged, as identified by a preliminary gap analysis.

The currently certified VA-Delta western Kamchatka salmon fishery includes several rivers to the south of the Pymta river, and the currently certified Narody-Severa Boshersesk fishery includes rivers to the north of the Pymta river. This expedited scope extension will evaluate the Pymta River salmon fisheries against MSC Principle 1 using the modified salmon assessment tree contained within the VA-Delta fishery. Note these fisheries take place in coastal waters adjacent to the Pymta River rather than in river. So although these specific fishing parcels have not been assessed against Principle 2, the habitat areas and types and fishing gears are identical to those which are certified under the VA-Delta and NS-B certificates, and the spatial scale is such that a P2 evaluation would have identical results to those already certified. The assessment of Principle 3 leading to the existing certification for the other salmon fishing areas will remain unchanged when considering the Pymta River for certification, as no aspects of the management will change.

The preliminary gap analysis has identified the following components as held in common between the two assessments: Principle 2, all components; and Principle 3 governance and policy and fisheries specific management. Those components found not to be held in common are as follows: Principle 1 all components. We will make a final determination of components needing assessment following the information gathering and site visit phase of the expedited assessment.

Table 1: Preliminary overview of planned treatment of each PI in the scope extension assessment of the VA-Delta fishery to include Pymta River salmon.

Performance Indicator	Consideration during scope extension
1.1.1. Stock Status	New assessment of Pymta River for pink, chum, coho and sockeye salmon.
1.1.2. Reference Points	New assessment of Pymta River for pink, chum, coho and sockeye salmon.
1.1.3. Stock Rebuilding	New assessment of Pymta River for pink, chum, coho and sockeye salmon.
1.2.1. Harvest Strategy	New assessment of Pymta River for pink, chum, coho and sockeye salmon.
1.2.2. Harvest Control Rules and Tools	New assessment of Pymta River for pink, chum, coho and sockeye salmon.
1.2.3. Information and Monitoring	New assessment of Pymta River for pink, chum, coho and sockeye salmon.
1.2.4. Assessment of stock status	New assessment of Pymta River for pink, chum, coho and sockeye salmon.
1.3.1. Enhancement outcome	New assessment of Pymta River for pink, chum, coho and sockeye salmon.
1.3.2. Enhancement management	New assessment of Pymta River for pink, chum, coho and sockeye salmon.
1.3.3. Enhancement information	New assessment of Pymta River for pink, chum, coho and sockeye salmon.
2.1.1. Retained species outcome	No new assessment
2.1.2. Retained species management	No new assessment
2.1.3. Retained species information	No new assessment
2.2.1. Bycatch species outcome	No new assessment
2.2.2. Bycatch species management	No new assessment
2.2.3. Bycatch species information	No new assessment
2.3.1. ETP species outcome	No new assessment
2.3.2. ETP species management	No new assessment
2.3.2. ETP species information	No new assessment
2.4.1. Habitat outcome	No new assessment
2.4.2. Habitat management	No new assessment
2.4.3. Habitat information	No new assessment
2.5.1. Ecosystem outcome	No new assessment
2.5.2. Ecosystem management	No new assessment
2.5.3. Ecosystem information	No new assessment
3.1.1. Legal and customary framework	No new assessment
3.1.2. Consultation roles and responsibilities	No new assessment
3.1.3. Long term objectives	No new assessment
3.1.4. Incentives for sustainable	No new assessment

fishing	
3.2.1. Fishery specific objectives	No new assessment
3.2.2. Decision making processes	No new assessment
3.2.3. Compliance and enforcement	No new assessment
3.2.4. Research plan	No new assessment
3.2.5. Monitoring and management performance evaluation	No new assessment