

Marine Stewardship Council - Variation Request

Date submitted to MSC	8 th March 2016
Name of CAB	Acoura Marine
Fishery Name/CoC Certificate Number	Canada Northern and Striped Shrimp
Lead Auditor/Programme Manager	Rob Blyth-Skyrme/Polly Burns
Scheme requirement(s) for which variation requested	FCR v1.3 "24.2.3.3 b. Review the outcomes of any scoring of the fishery previously undertaken against the most recent version of the MSC Certification Requirements. c. Assess new information following all steps from scoring the fishery (27.10) to peer review (27.14) against the most recent version of the MSC Certification Requirements."
Is this variation sought in order to fulfil IPI requirements (FCR 7.4.14)?	No

1. Proposed variation

Public Comment Draft Report will be submitted to the MSC beyond the allowed 9 month limit from the site visit, and beyond the additional 30 days to this 9 month limit (24.2.3.1), without following the steps detailed in 24.2.3.3 b & c. We will follow the steps detailed in 24.2.3 other than the two sub-clauses requested to be varied against here.

2. Rationale/Justification

This fishery was initially certified on 20th March 2012 (SFA 1) and 23rd June 2011 (SFA 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7), and entered re-assessment on the 21st May 2015. The site visit was on the 22nd June 2015, making the PCDR due by the 22nd March 2016. The fishery assessment has faced delays owing to the fact that the lead assessor and principle 3 expert withdrew from the team in October 2015 (during which period, no progress was made on the reassessment report). This resulted in replacements being required for both positions, and for those individuals to be required to initiate the process of drafting the report. Delays were also noted during the period of transition from Intertek Fisheries Certification to Acoura Marine as the fishery's CAB.

The CR (24.2.3) states that if the fishery exceeds the 9-month period, and the additional 30 day period, a new 30-day period of stakeholder consultation will be required, followed by a review of any new information provided, a review of the outcomes of any scoring of the fishery previously undertaken against the most recent version of the MSC CR, and assess new information following all steps from scoring the fishery to peer review against the most recent version of the MSC CR.

The requirement in 24.2.3.1 will be followed – but the PCDR will not be available by the end of this 30 day period, therefore requiring 24.2.3.2 and 24.2.2.3 to be followed. However, in this case,

Acoura Marine would like to request not following the steps in 24.2.3.3b & c in order to ensure that the fishery progresses swiftly with the assessment following the delays, in order to meet the first certificate expiry date of the 22nd June 2016. The requirement to assess the fishery against the newest version of the CR would be extremely time consuming and excessively costly to the client. The delays to the assessment were not a fault of the client, nor are they a reflection of the fishery.

Given the delays, we will open up the assessment to stakeholder comment. We will therefore be following 24.2.3.2a & b, in case stakeholders wish to draw anything of significance to the team, and follow 24.2.3.3a, with the team reviewing this under the current certification requirements (v1.3). The fishery remains certified whilst the re-assessment continues, and was found to be fully compliant with the MSC requirements at this time.

3. Implications for assessment (required for fisheries assessment variations only)

There is not expected to be any further delays with the re-assessment of this fishery. Varying CR 24.2.3.2 b and c will allow the assessment report to be reviewed by stakeholders in a timelier manner than if the requirements are not varied.

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

No. Stakeholder's will be notified when a response is given to this request.

5. Further Comments

None, thank you.

6. Confidential Information

The P3 expert in the team had to withdraw from the team due to illness.