

Marine Stewardship Council - Variation Request Form V1.3

Date submitted to MSC	9 December 2013
Conformity Assessment Body	Intertek Moody Marine
Fishery Name/CoC Certificate Number	Canadian Scotian Shelf Northern Prawn Trawl Fishery
Lead Auditor/Programme Manager	Steve Devitt
Scheme requirement(s) to vary from	CR 27.4.10
Is this variation sought in order to undertake an expedited P1 assessment (CR annex CL)?	No.

1. Proposed variation

This is to request that the MSC consider a variation to the MSC CR v1.3, to approve *Pandalus montagui* as an IPI stock in accordance with CR 27.4.9.1, and an exemption to requirements for this IPI stock under CR 27.4.10.2.

2. Rationale/Justification

The *Canadian Scotian Shelf Northern Prawn Trawl fishery* may capture *Pandalus montagui* concurrently in its fishery for *Pandalus borealis* within the area of the fishery in volumes up to 0.5% of the weight of the total catch. The attached analysis demonstrates that the fishery catches low amounts of this IPI species and that that *P. montagui* is relatively abundant and widespread throughout the Scotian Shelf area. The fishery is unlikely to create a significant impact on the IPI stock as a whole.

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

This request will delay release of the FCR until the MSC is able to consider and issue a decision.

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

No.

5. Further Comments

Please see attached IPI analysis.

6. Confidential Information
NA.

EXPEDITED PRINCIPLE 1 ASSESSMENT FOR MAIN RETAINED PRINCIPLE 2 STOCKS

7. Main retained Principle 2 stock(s) for which an expedited Principle 1 assessment is sought	<i>Please list the stocks for which an expedited P1 assessment is sought. These must be stocks assessed in the existing certified fishery as 'main retained species'</i>
8. Evaluation of potential impact on Principle 2	
NA	
9. Evaluation of potential impact on Principle 3	
10. Based on the potential impacts identified in 8 and 9, please list any additions to the expedited assessment requirements given in Annex CL that will be necessary to ensure the fishery is accurately assessed against Principles 1, 2, and 3 with the proposed additional P1 stocks.	
NA	

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Ref: 82024

Date: 9 December 2013

Dear Jodi,

Scotian Shelf Northern Shrimp (*Pandalus borealis*) Fishery Reassessment – IPI application

This is to request that you consider an application to approve *Pandalus montagui* as an IPI stock in accordance with CR 27.4.9.1, and an exemption to requirements for this IPI stock under CR 27.4.10.2.

CR 27.4.9.1

The distribution of *P. montagui* can overlap with that of *P. borealis* on the Scotian Shelf and, as a result, is liable to be caught in the fishery. Owing to their physical similarities and appearance they are inseparable during the normal fishing operation and practically inseparable during processing (CR 27.4.9.1 a & b) (see figures 1 and 2).

Figure 1 - *Pandalus borealis*



Figure 2 - *Pandalus montagui*



Observer information for the most recent years available (2008-2010) indicates that “other shrimp” made up 0.50% of the target species catch in this period (Hardie et al 2011) (Table 1). Although observers do not separate *P. montagui* from other species of shrimp taken in the fishery, it would make up most of the “other shrimp” category, and accordingly, it is estimated that *P. montagui* makes up 0.50% or less of the total catch. As such, catches of *P. montagui* in the fishery are < 15% of the total combined weight of target and IPI species (CR 27.9.4.1 c).

Table 1: Bycatch in the eastern Scotian Shelf shrimp fishery, based on observer sampling of 119 sets, 2008-2012. Source: Hardie et al 2011.

SPECIES	TOTAL BYCATCH		BYCATCH BY AREA			BYCATCH BY FLEET		BYCATCH BY SEASON	
	Est. Weight (kg)	TOTAL %	14	15	17	GULF	SCOTIA-FUNDY	SPRING	FALL
PANDALUS BOREALIS	223390	98.22%	98.48%	98.07%	97.11%	99.14%	97.00%	99.00%	91.42%
SILVER HAKE	708	0.31%	0.64%	0.31%	0.02%	0.26%	0.28%	0.17%	1.48%
HERRING(ATLANTIC)	683	0.28%	0.18%	0.30%	0.26%	0.08%	0.46%	0.11%	1.42%
OTHER SHRIMP	1137	0.50%	0.01%	0.01%	2.01%	0.08%	1.17%	0.00%	4.57%
AMERICAN PLAICE	340	0.15%	0.12%	0.12%	0.24%	0.08%	0.24%	0.14%	0.26%
WITCH FLOUNDER	292	0.13%	0.22%	0.11%	0.04%	0.07%	0.21%	0.12%	0.16%
RED FISH UNSEPARATED	273	0.12%	0.15%	0.17%	0.00%	0.11%	0.13%	0.09%	0.35%
CAPELIN	245	0.11%	0.06%	0.13%	0.14%	0.10%	0.12%	0.11%	0.07%
SNAKE BLENNY	122	0.05%	0.06%	0.08%	0.00%	0.08%	0.01%	0.06%	0.00%
ALEWIFE	84	0.03%	0.01%	0.00%	0.09%	0.01%	0.08%	0.02%	0.13%
EELPOUTS	84	0.04%	0.06%	0.03%	0.02%	0.02%	0.08%	0.03%	0.08%
THORNY SKATE	28	0.01%	0.03%	0.01%	0.00%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.00%
GREENLAND HALIBUT	21	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.00%	0.02%	0.01%	0.00%
ALLIGATORFISH	20	0.01%	0.00%	0.02%	0.00%	0.02%	0.00%	0.01%	0.00%
FOURBEARD ROCKLING	20	0.01%	0.02%	0.01%	0.00%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.00%
ATLANTIC SEA POACHER	18	0.01%	0.02%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.02%	0.01%	0.00%
SNAIL FISH	14	0.01%	0.00%	0.00%	0.01%	0.00%	0.01%	0.01%	0.00%
YELLOWTAIL FLOUNDER	13	0.01%	0.00%	0.01%	0.00%	0.00%	0.01%	0.00%	0.04%
COD(ATLANTIC)	10	0.00%	0.01%	0.00%	0.01%	0.00%	0.01%	0.00%	0.01%
SNOW CRAB (QUEEN)	6	0.00%	0.01%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.01%	0.00%	0.00%
SAND LANCES (HS)	6	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.01%	0.00%	0.01%	0.00%	0.00%
WRYMOUTH	5	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.01%	0.00%	0.01%	0.00%	0.00%
BLENNIES	7	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.01%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
DAUBED SHANNY	4	0.00%	0.01%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
SCULPINS	3	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
STRIPED ATLANTIC WOLFISH	3	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
TOADI CRAB UNIDENT.	3	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
SQUIRREL OR RED HAKE	1	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
WHITE BARRACUDINA	1	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
POLLOCK	1	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
% BYCATCH		1.78%	1.52%	1.33%	2.89%	0.86%	3.00%	0.94%	8.57%

The *P. borealis* fishery is the only fishery that uses small enough mesh size to catch *P. montagui* and so it is not subject to any other fishing mortality (CR 27.4.9.1 c).

P. montagui is not an ETP species (CR 27.4.9.1 d) (SARA Public Registry).

The *P. montagui* stock on the Scotian Shelf has not been MSC certified (CR 27.4.9.1 e).

27.10.4.2

As noted above, *P. montagui* has made up 0.50% of the catch of the target species in the three most recent years for which data are available, thus is less than 2% of the combined weight of target species and IPI species.

Based on percentages of bycatch species relative to target species weight above, and total weight of target species taken in the most recent years for which catch information is available (2010-2011) (4,600 t/yr), total annual catch of *P. montagui* was approximately 23 t/yr (Table 2). Biomass estimates for this species are not available, but multispecies trawl surveys have shown that although *P. montagui* does not occur in large concentrations like those of *P. borealis*, it is relatively abundant and is distributed more widely than *P. borealis* on the Scotian Shelf, including in areas where *P. borealis* is uncommon and not fished (Tremblay et al 2007) (Figures 3, 4). In light of this evidence that the species is relatively abundant and widespread on the

Scotian Shelf, the very small catches of 23 t/yr are not considered to create a significant impact on the IPI stock as a whole.

Table 2. : Estimated annual catches of the 12 most abundant bycatch species for 2010 and 2011, based on percentage in sampled sets (Table 1) and total catch of the target species of 4,600 t.

Species	%	Estimated catch (t)
<i>P. borealis</i>	98.22	4600.00
Silver hake	0.31	14.26
Atlantic herring	0.26	11.96
Other shrimp	0.50	23.00
American plaice	0.15	6.90
Witch flounder	0.13	5.98
Redfishes	0.12	5.52
Capelin	0.11	5.06
Snake blenny	0.05	2.30
Alewife	0.03	1.38
Eelpouts	0.04	1.84
Thorny skate	0.01	0.46
Greenland halibut	0.01	0.46

Figure 3. Biomass (kg/tow) of *Pandalus borealis* from the 1999-2006 Summer Ecosystem Surveys (source: Tremblay et al 2007)

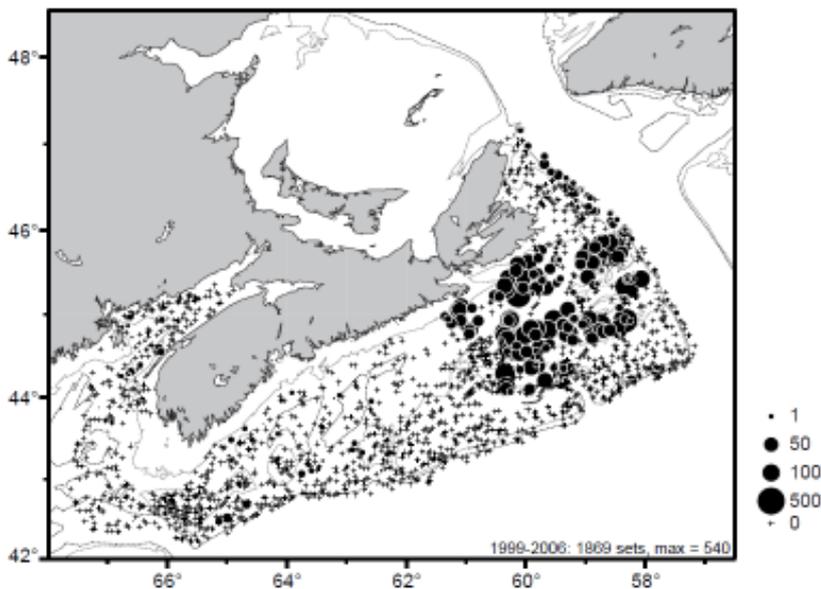
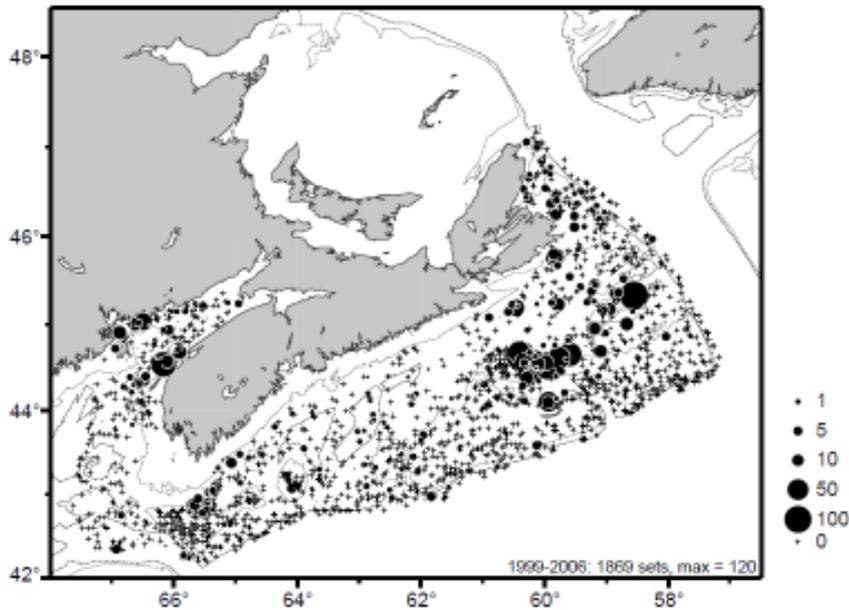


Figure 4. Biomass (kg/tow) of *Pandalus montagui* from the 1999-2006 Summer Ecosystem Surveys (Source: Tremblay et al 2007)



One reason for the low bycatches is the ability of fishermen to target areas where *P. montagui* is relatively uncommon. This species has low market value compared to that of the target species, and admixture of *P. montagui* into landed catches can lower their value. Accordingly, it is expected that bycatch of *P. montagui* will continue to be low.

Yours sincerely,

Steve Devitt
IMM Lead Auditor

References cited

Hardie, D., M. Covey, M. King and B. Zisserson. 2011. Scotian Shelf shrimp 2010-2011. Can. Sci. Adv. Sec. Res. Doc. 2011/102: 82 pp.

SARA Public Registry. www.sararegistry.gc.ca

Tremblay, M. J., G. A. P. Black and R. M. Branton. 2007. The distribution of common decapod crustaceans and other invertebrates recorded in annual ecosystem surveys of the Scotian Shelf 1999-2006. Can. Tech. Rep. Fish. Aquat. Sci. 2762: iii + 74 pp.