

## Marine Stewardship Council

### Variation Request Form

#### Marine Stewardship Council - Variation Request

Date submitted to MS	29 Jan 2013
Conformity Assessment Body	MRAG Americas
Fishery Name/CoC Certificate Number	Northeast Sakhalin Pink Salmon
Lead Auditor/Programme Manager	Robert Trumble
Scheme requirement(s) to vary from	CR 27.22 Table C4
Is this variation sought in order to undertake an expedited P1 assessment (CR annex CL)?	No

#### 1. Proposed variation

*Surveillance will commence 15 months after certification rather than one year. Subsequence surveillance will occur at one year intervals from the time of the first surveillance.*

#### 2. Rationale/Justification

*Salmon fisheries typically occur seasonally and have a fairly short duration. The intensity of fishing and the need to actively fish during open periods during the run present difficulties for the fishing industry, scientists, and managers who would need to participate in a surveillance audit during the fishing season. The NE Sakhalin Pink Salmon fishery received certification on 12 June 2012, just before the start of the fishing season. The clients have requested, and MRAG Americas agrees, that surveillance should occur after the fishing season has ended. The attached letter from Vladimir Smirnov provides details on the conflicts of a site visit if held near the time of the fishery. Shifting the surveillance to after the fishing season would also allow consideration of preliminary data from the just-completed season. This request does not alter the conformity of the applicant or certificate holder with the relevant MSC standard. Had the certification occurred three months later, the surveillance schedule would fall as proposed, and no issues would arise. In fact, the Ozernaya sockeye fishery was certified in September 2012 and will have a surveillance schedule as proposed for NE Sakhalin. The rescheduling of the NE Sakhalin surveillance to September will allow the surveillance site visit to occur on the same trip for both fisheries, and will allow the two fisheries to share travel expenses rather than have the cost burden of two trips.*

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

*This request should have no impacts on the assessment. Surveillance would occur annually in or around September, just shifted back three months. Stakeholders will still have the same opportunity for participation.*

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

*No. An announcement of the revised schedule will go out to stakeholders upon approval.*