

Marine Stewardship Council

Variation Request Form

This form details the information required from CABs to enable the MSC to consider a request to vary from their scheme requirements.

Please complete all unshaded fields. Where instructions are included in italics, please delete and replace with the described information.

Once complete, save and attach to an email to the MSC Fishery Assessment Manager assigned to the fishery being assessed or send to coc@msc.org if the variation is regarding a CoC requirement.

On receipt, the MSC will consider your request and will usually respond within 10 days.

If your variation request is regarding a fishery requirement, please note that all variation requests and the MSC response to the request will be published on the MSC website with announcements for the fishery.

Certification Body	MRAG Americas
Fishery Name/CoC Certificate Number	Fi-0000000234 Northeast Sakhalin and Aniva Bay trap net pink salmon fishery
Lead Auditor/Programme Manager	Bob Trumble
Scheme requirement(s) to vary from	FCM 2.1.1.1; FAM 4.2.1; TAB-D-003

Proposed variation
The initial description of the unit of certification identified a set of participating fishing companies. The client wishes to have the flexibility to add more fishing companies to the unit of certification. We, therefore, propose to change the unit of certification for from a list of specific companies to all eligible fishing companies under a certificate sharing arrangement. The client will add companies to the approved list per a certificate sharing agreement.

Rationale/Justification
As the assessment has generated publicity in the region to the benefits of certification, more companies have expressed a desire to participate in the assessment. Allowing more companies to participate will increase the incentives of the participating companies to maintain fishing operations in compliance with the MSC standard, and provide an incentive of currently non-participating companies to join. A certificate sharing agreement will offer an opportunity for new entrants, and give the clients assurance that all new participants fully comply with financial and operational procedures set by the clients and with conditions set by the CB.

Document: CAB Request for variation from MSC requirements

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Approved by: DS

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Implications for assessment (required for fisheries assessment variations only)
We do not anticipate any substantive delays as a result of this request for variation. Review of the request for variation can take place during Client and Peer Reviews, and should not affect the timing of the Public Comment Draft Report.

Have the stakeholders of this fishery assessment been informed of this request? (required for fisheries assessment variations only)	Yes. During the site visit the CB and Clients met with 10 companies not currently participating in the assessment plus companies already involved. They had an opportunity to ask questions about the assessment and its implications.
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Further Comments
We submit that the flexibility to allow new participating fishing companies into the Aniva Bay unit of certification will enhance the sustainability of the fishery as an expanding number of companies will exert increasing peer pressure on non-participants to improve fishing practices and have will increased influence on government agencies to improve fishery management and hatchery operational practices.