

Lloyd's Register

**AQIP Gulf of St Lawrence halibut fixed gear
fishery**

MSC Variation Request

1 Marine Stewardship Council variation request

Table 1 – Variation request

1	Date submitted to MSC
	3rd February 2020 (updated 25 th February)
2	CAB
	Lloyd's Register
3	Fishery name and certificate number or CoC certificate number
	AQIP Gulf of St Lawrence Greenland halibut fixed gear fishery – in assessment
4	Lead auditor or program manager
	Deirdre Duggan (LR program manager)
5	Request prepared by
	Deirdre Duggan and Polly Burns
6	Scheme requirement(s) for which variation requested
	MSC Fishery Certification Requirements (FCR) v2.0 7.3.2 - If the period from the full assessment announcement to the receipt of the Final Report by the MSC is more than 18 months, the CAB shall withdraw the fishery from the MSC assessment process.
7	How many times has a variation for this requirement been accepted for the same assessment of the same fishery?
	N/A

Table 2 – Variation justification

1	Proposed variation										
	LR propose to issue a final report and decision on the 28 th May 2020, 2 months later than the initial deadline of 28 th March,										
2	Additional time requested										
	Original deadline date	28 th March 2020									
	Modified deadline date requested	28 th May 2020									
	Length of additional time requested	2 months									
3	Justification										
	<p>A harmonised fishery went through full assessment first, with the same team members as this fishery. During the course of that assessment there were some unexpected complications in the assessment which meant deadlines were pushed back. This then had knock-on effects in the preparation of the report for this halibut fishery. Though many of the scores and information are common between the two fisheries, it does not take-away from the fact that this fishery has it's own catch data to consider and again is complex. The impact of the delay means the assessment team are behind schedule by 2 months. In order to avoid undue cost to the client and the work done to date go to waste, LR are requesting 2 months extra to the 18 month deadline to allow the assessment to complete.</p> <p>Additionally, through the harmonisation process for Principle 2 components (in particular with the AQIP snow crab fishery), the halibut fishery experienced delay in the scoring and completion of the preliminary draft report. There has been an ongoing discussion in relation to the scoring of PI 2.3.1 and whether national limits apply between CABs and DFO. This has further delayed progress as there needs to be a harmonised outcome on the approach taken.</p>										
4	If a fishery assessment, implications for assessment										
	<p>This extension will see the fishery remain in assessment, and will delay publication of the final report and the final consultation period. Ultimately, this pushes back the certification date (if end result). Stakeholders will be notified of the outcome if accepted and revised timeline will be published should this be accepted.</p> <p>If the variation request is approved, the following timeline would be updated for the fishery page:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Currently</th> <th>Requested</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Final report and decision</td> <td>27th March 2020 – 27th April 2020</td> <td>28th May 2020 – 26th June 2020</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Public certification report</td> <td>1st May 2020 – 20th May 2020</td> <td>1st July 2020 – 10th July 2020</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Currently	Requested	Final report and decision	27 th March 2020 – 27 th April 2020	28 th May 2020 – 26 th June 2020	Public certification report	1 st May 2020 – 20 th May 2020	1 st July 2020 – 10 th July 2020
	Currently	Requested									
Final report and decision	27 th March 2020 – 27 th April 2020	28 th May 2020 – 26 th June 2020									
Public certification report	1 st May 2020 – 20 th May 2020	1 st July 2020 – 10 th July 2020									
5	If a fishery assessment, mitigation of the implication for assessment										
	<p>Stakeholders will be notified of the outcome if accepted and revised timeline will be published should this be accepted. Stakeholders will have the opportunity to make comments on the report and submit new information at PCDR.</p>										
6	If a fishery assessment, how many conditions does the fishery have and will their progress be affected (positive or negative)?										
	<p>The fishery currently has six conditions. As this is a 2 month extension request, it is not anticipated that the client action plan on the conditions would be affected.</p>										

7	What is the status of the current assessment?
	The fishery was announced on 28th September 2018, with a notice to review new information posted on 8th July 2019, peer reviewers were proposed on 13th June 2019 and an updated assessment timeline uploaded to the MSC on 1st November 2019.
8	Further comments
9	If applicable, additional information added after MSC's request
	<p>The other fishery where team members overlapped was the Canada 0AB 2+3KLMNO Greenland Halibut Bottom Trawl and Gillnet fishery. This required a large and complex P2 assessment which took a lot of team members' time. The focus on this fishery left little time to work on this one, and meant a delay in moving on to the report. Additionally, overlapping fisheries (just within LR, include Gulf of St Lawrence northern shrimp, AQIP Snow crab and Canada 0AB 2+3KLMNO Greenland Halibut Bottom Trawl and Gillnet fishery) also have interactions with North Atlantic Right Whales, which required harmonisation for Principle 2. The interpretation of the catch limits from regulatory bodies is not yet available, and the auditors have been tied up in harmonisation processes as well as trying to ensure the impacts are appropriately considered for all of the fisheries there is an unexpectedly large amount of information to evaluate these fisheries which has created further delays in reports. As all the fishery assessments have overlapping team members, the delays in the other fisheries are resulting in delays in the halibut reporting timelines, and we want to make sure all our reports have harmonised, consistent outcomes.</p>

Template information and copyright

This document was drafted using the 'MSC Variation Request Form v3.0'.

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Template version control

Version	Date of publication	Description of amendment
1.0	1 January 2011	Date of application
1.1	24 October 2011	Updated to include a confidential information section
1.2	10 January 2012	Updated to include more detailed instructions on confidential information section
1.3	14 January 2013	Updated in line with requirements in MSC Certification Requirements v1.3, including P2 to P1 'expedited audit'
2.0	08 October 2014	Updates in line with release of Fisheries Certification Requirements v2.0
2.1	04 October 2016	Updated contact information
3.0	17 December 2018	Release alongside Fisheries Certification Process v2.1

A controlled document list of MSC program documents is available on the [MSC website](http://msc.org) (msc.org)

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