

Marine Stewardship Council - Variation Request Form V1.3

Date submitted to MSC	29 May 2013
Conformity Assessment Body	MRAG Americas, Inc
Fishery Name/CoC Certificate Number	Narody-Severa Bolsheretsk Salmon
Lead Auditor/Programme Manager	Robert J. Trumble
Scheme requirement(s) to vary from	CR 27.8.2
Is this variation sought in order to undertake an expedited P1 assessment (CR annex CL)?	No

1. Proposed variation
The assessment team will use the revised assessment tree (attached) for the full assessment of the Narody-Severa Bolsheretsk salmon fishery.

2. Rationale/Justification
<p>The attached document provides a summary of revisions to the MSC Fishery Assessment Methodology's (FAM) Default Assessment Tree to be use in the full assessment of the Narody Severa-Bolsheretsk salmon fishery, based primarily on the Default Assessment tree prepared by Scientific Certification Systems (SCS) for the Annette Island Reserve (AIR) salmon fishery assessment, and modified for the Northeast Sakhalin and Aniva Bay trap net pink salmon fishery and Ozernaya sockeye salmon fishery. The indicators, issues, and elements have been edited to more closely match the MSC Certification Requirements v1.3, but to remain as close as practicable to the assessment tree used in the recent salmon assessments.</p> <p>No enhancement activities occur for the salmon stocks under assessment for the Narody Severa-Bolsheretsk fishery. The modified assessment tree has considerations of performance indicators for stock complexes of salmon typically include a mixture of local and non-local stocks of the same species. The unit of certification will include sockeye, chum, pink, and coho salmon fisheries in the Opala and Kihchik Rivers, and pink salmon on the Bolshaya River, Kamchatka, Russia. The intent is that all salmon stocks harvested by these companies will be certified to carry the logo as long as all performance indicators are met and non-target stocks meet the requirements for inseparable and practicably inseparable stocks.</p> <p>For the purposes of this assessment, all salmon caught in the Narody Severa-Bolsheretsk fishery are considered to be target stocks. This includes local salmon stocks that are produced naturally in the three rivers in the unit of certification and from adjacent rivers.</p> <p>Indicators, issues, and elements that have been modified from the FAM can be found in red text in the attached document. In order to fully capture the effect of enhancement, three additional indicators have been added, 1.3.1, 1.3.2 and 1.3.3.</p>

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

The use of the revised assessment tree will ensure this assessment closely aligns with the assessments for similar fisheries and will not impact other requirements for the assessment. Stakeholders will have the opportunity (via 30 day consultation period) to comment on the revised assessment tree before it is finalized.

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

Per the Certification Requirements, MRAG Americas will notify all stakeholders of the draft revised assessment tree following approval from the MSC.