

SAI Global

Gaspésie lobster trap fishery

MSC Variation Request

1 Introduction

This form details the information SAI Global is required to submit to the MSC to enable the MSC to consider an application to vary from a clause or requirement in any of the MSC program documents.

Once a Variation Request has been submitted the MSC will consider that request and will usually respond within 14 days.

2 Marine Stewardship Council variation request

Table 1. Variation request.

1	Date submitted to MSC
	21 st February 2020
2	CAB
	SAI Global
3	Fishery name and certificate number or CoC certificate number
	Gaspésie lobster trap fishery / MSC-F-31180
4	Lead auditor or program manager
	Géraldine Criquet
5	Request prepared by
	Géraldine Criquet
6	Scheme requirement(s) for which variation requested
	<p>Variation A <i>MSC GCR v.2.4.1 § 7.5.6 The CAB shall issue fishery certificates with a maximum validity period of 5 years from the issue date.</i></p> <p>Variation B <i>MSC FCP v.2.1 § 7.19.2 The CAB shall issue the Client and Peer Review Draft Report to the client and the Peer Review College at the same time.</i></p>
7	How many times has a variation for this requirement been accepted for the same assessment of the same fishery?
	0 – These variations for these requirements have never been requested previously for the same assessment.

Table 2. Variation justification.

1	Proposed variation	
	Variation A SAI Global proposes to extend the validity of the fishery certificate.	
	Variation B SAI Global proposes not to provide the Client and Peer Review Draft Report to the client and the Peer Review College at the same time. SAI Global wishes to provide the Client and Peer Review Draft Report to the client the week of February 24 th , 2020, and to the Peer Review College end of March.	
2	Additional time requested	
	Original deadline date	4 th March 2020
	Modified deadline date requested	13 th July 2020
	Length of additional time requested	4 months and 9 days
3	Justification	
	Variation A The reduced re-assessment was announced on 4 th June 2019, so 3 months after the 4 th anniversary date of the certificate. The site visit took place end of September 2019 to be combined with the site visit for the Îles-de-la-Madeleine lobster trap 1 st surveillance audit after re-assessment and for the Maritime Canada inshore lobster trap fishery assessment. Following the site visit, delays occurred to allow the assessment team to review additional information related to MSC UoAs combined impacts on the North Atlantic right whale and species used as bait scored under primary species Performance Indicators (PI). The assessment team was waiting for the North Atlantic Right Whale Consortium 2019 Annual Report Card to be published which occurred in January 2020. This Report Card includes updates on the status of the catalogued North Atlantic right whale population, mortalities and entanglement events, and a summary of current management and research efforts that have occurred over the previous 12 months. In Gaspé Peninsula, the lobster commercial fishing is currently closed and usually runs from May to July. March 4 th , 2020 will be 9 th months from the re-assessment announcement. As per MSC FCP § 7.20.1, SAI Global is required to run an additional 30 days stakeholder consultation for stakeholders to submit any new information relating to the fishery which will further delays the re-assessment process. The notification for this additional stakeholder consultation period will be issued on February 24 th , 2020. SAI Global agreed with the Peer Review College that the peer review will occur after the additional 30 days consultation period. If the certificate extension is to be granted, it will allow the Gaspésie lobster trap fishery to be covered by a valid certificate during the duration of the re-assessment process, thus not being penalised by the delay.	
	Variation B As said above, March 4 th , 2020 will be 9 th months from the re-assessment announcement. The notification for this additional stakeholder consultation period will be issued on February 24th, 2020.	

Table 2. Variation justification.

	<p>SAI Global agreed with the Peer Review College that the peer review will occur after the additional 30 days consultation period. SAI Global wishes not to wait for the end of the 30 days stakeholder consultation period to provide the client with the report as for the Peer Review College. So the client review of the report could overlap with this additional stakeholder consultation period and the peer review.</p>
4	<p>If a fishery assessment, implications for assessment</p> <p>Variation A</p> <p>SAI Global has not identified any risks to the integrity of the MSC Program from granting this variation. During the review and analysis of data and information for the drafting of the ACDR, SAI Global's assessment team has not identified any issues that would prevent the fishery from continuing to conform with the MSC Fisheries Standard. In addition, information and data collected during the site visit and used to draft the Client and Peer Review draft Report showed that there is no change in the lobster fishing operations, lobster fishery management or lobster stock status that would lead the fishery to no longer conform with the MSC Fisheries Standard.</p> <p>However, the Public Comment Draft Report is scheduled to be issued early May which will be more than 9 months from the fishery announcement (4th March 2020).</p> <p>Variation B</p> <p>SAI Global has not identified any risks to the integrity of the MSC Program from granting this variation. Client review of the report could overlap with the additional stakeholder consultation period and the peer review, meaning that the client will still have 60 days after receipt of the report to provide information that would lead to a material difference in the outcome of the assessment (as per MSC FCP § 7.19.6. Granting this variation will allow not to further delay the re-assessment process.</p>
5	<p>If a fishery assessment, mitigation of the implication for assessment</p> <p>Variation A</p> <p>As stated above, the Public Comment Draft Report is scheduled to be issued early May which will be more than 9 months from the fishery announcement. Therefore, SAI Global will apply MSC FCP § 7.20.1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Within 5 days of 4th March 2020, publication on the MSC website of a stakeholder notification of 30 additional days for stakeholders to submit any new information relating to the fishery. b. Direct notification of stakeholders participating in the fishery assessment of the opportunity to submit new information. c. Following these 30 days, the team will i) review any new information provided and ii) ensure that any changes to the scoring based on new information will be incorporated, if the team considers changes are necessary. <p>Variation B</p> <p>SAI Global has not identified any risks to the integrity of the MSC Program from granting this variation.</p>
6	<p>If a fishery assessment, how many conditions does the fishery have and will their progress be affected (positive or negative)?</p> <p>This re-assessment is a reduced re-assessment, conditions raised during the initial assessment were closed by the 3rd surveillance audit. In the ACDR, the only PI that was assigned with a likely score of 60-79 was PI 2.3.1 ETP species outcome. However, conditions are not drafted at the ACDR stage. The</p>

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	team is currently finalising the Client and Peer Review Draft Report and no condition has been raised at this stage.
7	<p>What is the status of the current assessment?</p> <p>The Client and Peer Review Draft Report is currently being finalised. The revised indicative timeline for this re-assessment is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Publication of an additional 30 days stakeholder consultation period on February 24th, 2020. - Client and Peer Review Draft Report is scheduled to be provided to the client on the week of February 24th, 2020. - Client and Peer review Draft Report is scheduled to be provided to the Peer Review College end of March 2020 after the end of the additional stakeholder consultation period. - The Public Comment Draft Report is scheduled to be published early May 2020. - The Final Report and Determination is scheduled to be published mid-June 2020. - The Public Certification Report is scheduled to be published early July 2020.
8	Further comments
	N/A
9	If applicable, additional information added after MSC's request
	N/A

3 Template information and copyright

This document was drafted using the 'MSC Variation Request Form v3.1'. While amendments have been made to formatting in order to comply with SAI Global's corporate identity, SAI Global has ensured that content and structure follow that of the original template.

The Marine Stewardship Council's 'MSC Variation Request Form v3.1' and its content is copyright of "Marine Stewardship Council" - © "Marine Stewardship Council" 2019. All rights reserved.

Table 3. 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
3.1	28 March 2019	Non-substantive changes to improve clarity and usability

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

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