



Jodi Bostrom
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Sent by email

Date: 05/02/2019

Subject: Request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement v2.0 FCR 7.7.1 for Waterhen Lake walleye and Northern pike Gillnet Commercial

Dear Jodi Bostrom,

I write with reference to your submission on 29/01/2019 of a request for variation to the MSC Certification Requirement (CR) to allow:

To vary from the default tree for the assessment of the walleye UoAs in the Manitoba boreal forest lakes walleye, northern pike, yellow perch, lake whitefish, and lake cisco commercial gillnet fishery.

Overall, for the enhanced walleye UoAs, Principle 1 will assess the parent stock, which is in Lake Manitoba or Lake Waterhen (depending on the fished lake), with changes made to PI 1.1.2 (if scored) and PIs 1.2.1-1.2.4 and the addition of a new PI 1.2.5. Principle 2 will assess the fished lakes, and the salmon tree language for PIs 2.4.1, 2.5.1, and 2.5.2 will be used instead of the default assessment tree's PI language to allow for the consideration of enhancement activities on the lakes' habitat and ecosystem. Principle 3 will be assessed as normal with the default assessment tree but will consider clauses under SC4 where the salmon tree annex discusses Principle 3.

As you are aware, the CR procedures relating to v2.0 FCR 7.7.1 state:

CABs shall use the structure and the default set of PISGs in the default tree as set out in Annex SA in all assessments with the following exceptions:

These are integral to ensuring all MSC accredited Conformity Assessment Bodies operate in a consistent and transparent manner. The MSC intends that these requirements be met across all fisheries and CoC certificate holders, except in exceptional, well-justified circumstances, as part of the MSC programme.

MSC notes the factors presented supporting your request, including:

- This request does not alter the conformity of the applicant fishery in relation to the relevant MSC standard.
- MRAG Americas is proposing the use of a combination of the default and salmon assessment trees, which will fit better with the uniqueness of this freshwater, enhanced fishery.

Given the rationale provided, the MSC is willing to grant a variation to the CR in this case subject to the following conditions:

- Stakeholders are informed

If you have any questions regarding this response, please do not hesitate to contact the relevant Fisheries Assessment Manager for this fishery.

Marine Stewardship Council
cc: Accreditation Services International