



Information Note
Department of Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture
Land Management Division (LMD)

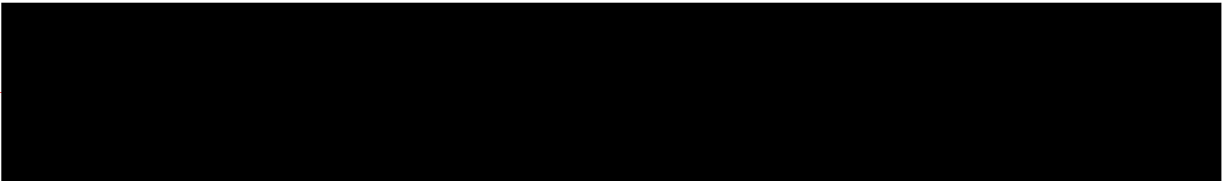
Title: Abandoned Property - Former Service Station Near the Town of Summerford

Issue: An abandoned site, occupied by a former service station with in-ground fuel storage tanks, associated infrastructure, and a burned residence with potential septic infrastructure.

Background and Current Status:

- On May 4, 1971 - A commercial lease was issued to [REDACTED] for the purpose of a service station.
 - The commercial lease was assigned to Wheelers Ultramar Ltd. on June 10, 1991.
- On January 3, 1996 – An illegal residence was identified on the back portion of the commercial lease. On February 28, 2003, the owner of the illegal residence inquired to the Department to acquire title.
 - A review of the lease documents determined that the only structure permitted on this site, was for the purpose of a service station. The illegal residence burned down in the winter of 2014, potentially leaving associated septic infrastructure in place.
- In 2002, an inspection determined there are three in-ground fuel tanks on site.
- In 2004, the service station was abandoned. [REDACTED]
 - On January 10, 2005 - Service NL confirmed that the service station located on the commercial lease was closed.
- February 16, 2005 - A letter was sent to the most recent operator, [REDACTED] notifying [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] responsibility to remove the tanks and remediate the site.
 - [REDACTED] indicated that the tanks were owned by Ultramar, and they took no responsibility of the ownership of the property.
- June 30, 2006 -Wheeler's Ultramar Ltd., the company operating the service station, was involuntarily dissolved. The structures and in-ground fuel storage tanks remained on the site.
- September 29, 2011 - Service NL received a complaint from the Town of Summerford indicating that the abandoned service station building and in ground fuel tanks are a safety concern.

29(1)(a)



30(1)(a),
30(1)(b)

- August 10, 2015 - A Notice of Cancellation was sent to R&T Service Center (Formerly Wheelers Ultramar Ltd.), and the property was reverted to the Crown.

- October 26, 2015 – A field inspection was conducted by the Crown Lands Division, where it was determined the former service station, tanks and associated piping infrastructure remained on site.
- The Department directed that a Phase I and Phase II Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) is required to determine the potential effects of the abandoned service station, in-ground tanks, associated infrastructure, the burned residence and potential septic infrastructure. This must include a report on potential future work (Phase III ESA) to obtain regulatory closure.

Analysis:

- The Land Management Division (LMD), in conjunction with the Pollution Prevention Division (PPD) of the Department of Environment and Climate Change, compiled a Request for Information (RFI) package which was advertised on November 28, 2023, to request quotes to complete the Phase I / II ESA work.

- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]

29(1)(a),
35(1)(d)

Action Being Taken:

- [Redacted]

29(1)(a),
35(1)(d)

Prepared/Approved by: K. Willis/J. Short /S. Balsom/J. Chippett
Ministerial Approval: Received from Hon. Elvis Loveless

April 26, 2024



Information Note
Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture

Title: Northern Cod Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) Division 2J3KL

Issue: Northern Cod NAFO Division 2J3KL March 2024 Stock Assessment Update

Background:

- The Northern Cod Stewardship Fishery in Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) Divisions 2J3KL is managed by Fisheries in Oceans Canada (DFO) through a Maximum Authorized Harvest (MAH) through limited entry and weekly landing limits. See Annex 1 for landings from 2017-2023.
- The Canadian Science Advisory Secretariat (CSAS) coordinates the scientific peer review and science advice for DFO. The CSAS provides departmental scientific advice and information on fish stock dynamics. CSAS meetings for the 2J3KL Northern Cod Stock (the stock) Assessment were held from March 18-21, 2024. The preceding assessment for the stock occurred in 2021.
- A Framework meeting held in October 2023 produced an updated stock assessment model and revised Limit Reference Point (LRP) for the stock. The revised LRP indicates the stock was in the Cautious Zone of DFO's Precautionary Approach (PA) Framework from 2016-2021, rather than the Critical Zone as determined by the previous assessment model and corresponding LRP. An upper stock reference has not been defined for the stock; however, given the proximity to the LRP it is assumed to be in the Cautious Zone. [REDACTED]

29(1)(a) [REDACTED]

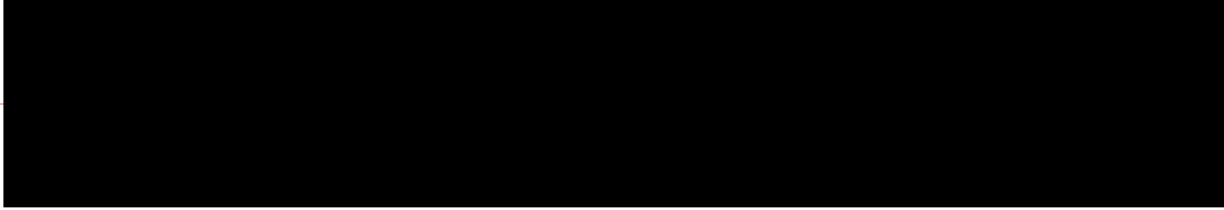
Analysis:

- The spawning stock biomass (SSB) is 1.2 times the LRP, with an estimated 22% probability that the stock is in the Critical Zone. SSB projections to 2027 considered total removals of zero to two times the 2023 MAH (0-27,034t). Within this range, the probability of the stock declining into the Critical Zone ranged between 42-52% across zero- and two-times the MAH removals, respectively. The risk of the stock declining during this period is moderately high, ranging from 62-67%. No level of removals supports a high ($\geq 75\%$) probability of stock growth.
- The assessment has determined that the stock has not grown since 2016, and short-term prospects for stock growth are limited. It was concluded that natural mortality and ecosystem conditions are driving 2J3KL stock dynamics.
- The NL bioregion continues to experience overall low productivity as measured by the DFO Research Vessel (RV) survey. Northern Cod productivity is linked to Capelin availability, and the 2J3KL Capelin stock is expected to remain at 10% of pre-stock collapse levels in the short term, which may impede growth in the cod stock.
- The 2023 Fall DFO RV survey in 2J and 3K was earlier than typical. An unknown proportion of the stock migrates from inshore to offshore areas and it is likely that a greater portion than usual was shoreward of the survey area in 2023. [REDACTED]

29(1)(a) [REDACTED]

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29(1)(a)



Action Being Taken:

- FFA will continue to monitor developments and participate in ongoing fishery management meetings for the 2J3KL Northern cod stock.

Prepared/Approved by: K. Frank/ A. Burrige/ B. Hanlon/J. Chippett

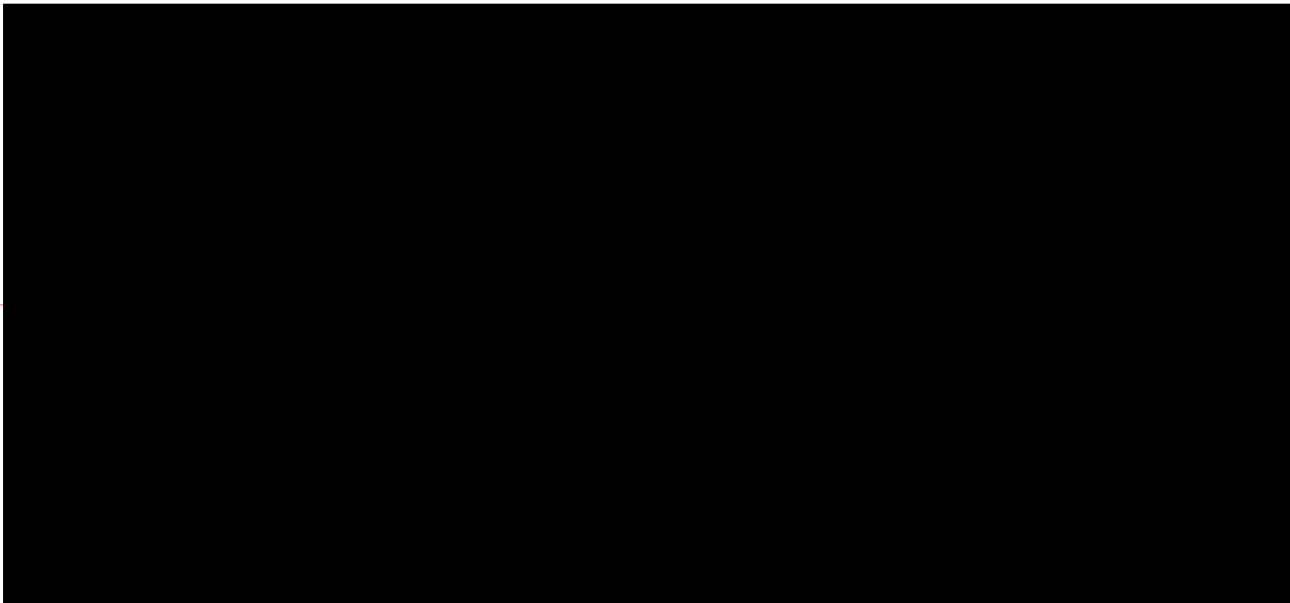
Ministerial Approval: Received from Hon. Elvis Loveless

March 28, 2024

Annex 1: Maximum Authorized Harvest and Landings in Tonnes (t) for the Northern Cod Stewardship Fishery (2J3KL) from 2017 to 2023.

Year	Max. Authorized Harvest (t)	Landings (t)
2017	N/A ¹	12,121
2018	9,500	9,383
2019	12,350	10,556
2020	12,350	10,227
2021	12,999	10,876
2022	12,999	12,475
2023	12,999	12,998

¹A cap on Maximum Allowable Harvest was implemented in 2018.



29(1)(a),
34(1)(a)(i),
34(1)(b)

Decision/Direction Note
Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture

Title: Position on Maximum Authorized Harvest for the 2024 Northern Cod Fishery in Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) Divisions 2J3KL

Decision/Direction Required:

- Whether to support a modest increase of the 2023 Maximum Authorized Harvest (12,999 tonnes) of 2J3KL Northern cod in 2024.
- It is recommended that the Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture (FFA) support a modest increase in the Maximum Authorized Harvest of 2J3KL Northern cod for 2024.

Background and Current Status:

- The Northern Cod Stewardship Fishery in Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) Divisions 2J3KL is managed by Fisheries in Oceans Canada (DFO) through a Maximum Authorized Harvest (MAH) through limited entry and weekly landing limits. See Annex 1 for landings from 2017-2023.
- The Canadian Science Advisory Secretariat (CSAS) coordinates the scientific peer review and science advice for DFO. The CSAS provides departmental scientific advice and information on fish stock dynamics. CSAS meetings for the 2J3KL Northern Cod Stock (the stock) Assessment were held from March 18-21, 2024. The preceding assessment for the stock occurred in 2021.
- A Framework meeting held in October 2023 produced an updated stock assessment model and revised Limit Reference Point (LRP) for the stock. The revised LRP indicates the stock was in the Cautious Zone of DFO's Precautionary Approach (PA) Framework from 2016-2021, rather than the Critical Zone as determined by the previous assessment model and corresponding LRP. An upper stock reference has not been defined for the stock; however, given the proximity to the LRP it is assumed to be in the Cautious Zone.
- DFO Science presented a review of the 2024 assessment during the 2J3KL Groundfish Advisory Committee (GAC) meeting on March 27, 2024. Members were asked for recommendations on the Maximum Authorized Harvest level for 2024 by April 5, 2024.
- The 2024 assessment concluded the following:
 - The spawning stock biomass (SSB) is 1.2 times the LRP, with an estimated 22% probability that the stock is in the Critical Zone
 - Under current ecosystem conditions and total removals, the stock has not grown since 2016, and short-term prospects for stock growth are limited. Natural mortality varied between 0.29 and 0.90 since 1990 (average 0.47) and is estimated at 0.59 in 2023. Fishing mortality has been below 0.05 since 2004 and was 0.02 in 2023.
 - The area continues to experience overall low productivity as measured by the DFO Research Vessel (RV) survey. Northern Cod productivity is linked to Capelin availability, and the 2J3KL Capelin stock is expected to remain at 10% of pre-stock collapse levels in the short term, which may impede growth in the cod stock.
 - The 2023 Fall DFO RV survey in 2J and 3K was earlier than typical. An unknown proportion of the stock migrates from inshore to offshore areas and it is likely that a greater portion than usual was shoreward of the survey area in 2023.

- o The next stock assessment will be completed this year and data is expected to be available to inform 2025 management decisions.

Analysis:

- As per the 2024 assessment, this stock is in the Cautious Zone of DFO's PA Framework,.
- Industry is expected to request an increase to the MAH considering the relatively low impact of fishing mortality on this stock and the relatively small change in probability of the stock declining under removal scenarios between zero and two-times current MAH. However, DFO's PA Framework states that management actions must encourage stock growth in the short term when the recent trajectory of a stock in the Cautious Zone is stable. The stock appears to be stable, experiencing little change since a period of rapid increase from 2012-16.
- Natural mortality is likely driving the dynamics of this stock; therefore, a modest increase in the Maximum Authorized Harvest of 2J3KL Northern cod may not have a serious impact on stock health, but could provide a significant, positive socio-economic impact for harvesters and processors in the province who rely on this fishery.
- [Redacted]
- 2J3KL GAC members did not present MAH options at the March 27, 2024 2J3KL GAC as they have reserved the option to review the science in detail and provide a written recommendation. There were strong opinions expressed as to whether the fishery should or should not be defined as a commercial fishery instead of a sentinel fishery.
- Should the fishery be managed as a commercial fishery, there will be implications to meet NAFO obligations (~5% of the MAH would be allocated to NAFO parties) and the mid-shore and offshore fleets would be expecting an allocation of the MAH. At present, the MAH is harvested by the inshore fleet with some Indigenous participation.
- [Redacted]

Alternatives:

1. Support a modest increase in the Maximum Authorized Harvest of 2J3KL Northern cod for 2024 (**Recommended**).

Advantages:

- Aligns with the majority of stakeholder views.
- An increase in Maximum Authorized Harvest would increase the amount of cod available to NL harvesters.

Disadvantages:

- May not align with some stakeholder views.
- Does not support the Precautionary Approach as the fishing removals will increase.

2. Do not support an increase in the Maximum Authorized Harvest of 2J3KL Northern cod from 12,999 t for 2024 (Not Recommended).

Advantages:

- Aligns with some industry views.

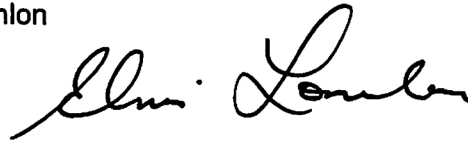
Disadvantages:

- Supports a precautionary approach by not increasing fishing removals.
- Does not align with the majority of stakeholder views.

Prepared/Approved by: A. Burrige/B. Hanlon

Ministerial Approval:

March 28, 2024

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elmer Louder". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "E" and a long, sweeping underline.

Annex 1:

Maximum Authorized Harvest and Landings in Tonnes (t) for the Northern cod stewardship fishery (2J3KL) from 2017 to 2023.

Year	Max. Authorized Harvest (t)	Landings (t)
2017	N/A ¹	12,121
2018	9,500	9,383
2019	12,350	10,556
2020	12,350	10,227
2021	12,999	10,876
2022	12,999	12,475
2023	12,999	12,998

¹A cap on Maximum Allowable Harvest was implemented in 2018.

Decision/Direction Note
Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture

Title: Total Allowable Catch (TAC) Position for 2J3KL Capelin for 2023

Decision/Direction Required:

- Whether to support a status quo Total Allowable Catch (TAC) of 14,533 tonnes (t) for Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) Division 2J3KL capelin for 2024.
- It is recommended that Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture (FFA) support a status quo TAC of 14,533t for 2J3KL capelin for 2024.

Background and Current Status:

- Capelin is a key forage species in Newfoundland and Labrador (NL) waters and is prey for many predators including seals, whales, fish, and seabirds. Capelin reach maturity after the age of two and have a short life span of up to four years, which can result in dramatic changes in abundance from year to year. Capelin respond rapidly to environmental changes; therefore, environmental variability may increase uncertainty regarding the outlook for capelin.
- There are two separate capelin fisheries in NL. One occurs mainly off the east/northeast coast in NAFO Divisions 2J3KL and the other is in the Gulf of St. Lawrence (NAFO Divisions 4RST).
- In March 2023, 2J3KL capelin was assessed and a Limit Reference Point (LRP) was established. The LRP was lowered to 155,000 t in the Fall of 2023 when the stock assessment model was revised. 2J3KL capelin was assessed in March 2024 and it was determined that the stock was out of the critical zone of the Precautionary Approach (PA) Framework.
- The 2J3KL Capelin Advisory meeting was held by Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) on April 4, 2024. [REDACTED]

29(1)(a)

- DFO has requested that written TAC recommendations be received by April 5, 2024.

Analysis:

- The TAC for 2J3KL capelin was 14,533t in 2023 and 11,355t (78 per cent) of the TAC was landed. See Annex 1 for 2J3KL TAC and landings history.
- The 2024 assessment identified that the stock is facing challenges related to delayed spawning, early maturation, and an age-truncated population structure and that the acoustic biomass index remains well below the 1985–90 peak period. These factors indicate reduced stock productivity, and a cautious management approach is recommended.
- The capelin forecast model predicts that the 2024 capelin acoustic biomass index will be similar to or slightly lower than 2023. The 2023 acoustic biomass index was 333,000 t which is above the LRP.
- At this time, the cautious and healthy zones have not been defined for this stock. DFO expects to convene a working group in 2024 to develop the Upper Stock Reference (USR) and a Harvest Control Rule (HCR) for this stock now that it is no longer considered in the critical zone of the PA Framework.

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29(1)(a)



Alternatives:

1. Support a status quo TAC of 14,533t for 2J3KL capelin for 2024 (**Recommended**).

Advantages

- Maintains the precautionary approach during the development of an upper stock reference point and a harvest control rule for this stock.
- Maintains stability for harvesters.

Disadvantages

- May not align with some stakeholder views.

2. Support a decreased TAC for 2J3KL capelin for 2024 (Not recommended).

Advantages

- A decrease in TAC supports some stakeholder views.
- A decrease in TAC could further support stock recovery.

Disadvantages

- A decrease in TAC may impact current harvesters and producers.

Prepared/Approved by: A. Burrige/B. Hanlon

Ministerial Approval:

April 4, 2024

Annex 1: 2J3KL TAC and Landing Data

Year	TAC (t)	Landings (t)
2015	30,496	23,061
2016	30,496	27,708
2017	30,496	19,917
2018	19,823	20,381
2019	22,796	20,405
2020	19,377	18,000
2021	14,533	13,945
2022	14,533	No landings to report - commercial fishery did not occur
2023	14,533	11,355

Decision/Direction Note
Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture

Title: Northern Shrimp Management Measures for 2024-25

Decision/Direction Required:

- Whether to support the following Total Allowable Catches (TACs) in Shrimp Fishing Area (SFA) 4, SFA 5, and SFA 6 as determined by a 2-step Harvest Decision Rule (HDR) for 2024-2025:
 - Support a TAC for SFA 4 of 15,533t;
 - Support a TAC for SFA 5 of 12,922t, and;
 - Support a TAC for SFA 6 of 9,660.5t;

29(1)(a)

Background and Current Status:

- The Northern shrimp fishery extends from the southern Grand Banks, north to the Davis Strait. Fisheries management for shrimp on the northeast coast is divided into eight SFAs (see Annex A). The offshore (greater than (>) 100 foot) fleet has access to all eight zones, whereas the inshore less than (<) 65 foot) fleet is primarily restricted to SFA 6, as SFA 7 was closed in 2015.
- In 2023, the TACs for SFAs 4, 5 and 6 were 14,886t, 14,200t and 9,430t respectively. See Annex B for TACs since 2015.
- On March 12-15, 2024, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) held its Canadian Science Advisory Secretariat (CSAS) peer review meeting on Northern shrimp in the Newfoundland and Labrador Region. The assessment determined that:
 - The stock in SFA 4 remains in the healthy zone of the Precautionary Approach (PA) framework;
 - The stock in SFA 5 has moved from the healthy zone to the cautious zone of the PA framework, and;
 - The stock in SFA 6 remains in the critical zone of the PA framework. SFA 6 stocks have been in the critical zone since 2016 and is subject to a rebuilding plan under the Fish Stock Provisions (FSPs).
- Northern Shrimp Advisory Committee (NSAC) members held a technical session on February 23, 2024. At this meeting, NSAC endorsed the consistent application of a 2-step HDR for SFA 4, SFA 5 and SFA 6 beginning in the 2024-25 fishing season.
- NSAC also endorsed the application of the 2-step HDR for Northern shrimp in the Eastern Assessment Zone (EAZ) and Western Assessment Zone (WAZ) which is located north of the SFA 4 boundary.
- NSAC met on April 3, 2024, to discuss management measures and make recommendations for the 2024-25 fishing season. As this fishery is Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certified, TAC decisions must be guided by science and existing management rules. Written recommendations from stakeholders are due to DFO by April 10, 2024.

Analysis:

- [Redacted]
- Northern shrimp in SFA 6 is in the Critical Zone of the PA framework; therefore, the FSPs require a review of the rebuilding plan for SFA 6 by April 2024. The FSPs also require DFO to implement management measures that support rebuilding the stock to its Limit Reference Point (LRP). It is possible that DFO could implement a TAC reduction or complete closure of SFA 6 for the 2024-2025 fishing season to rebuild this stock. [Redacted]
- A complete closure of SFA 6 would have a negative economic impact on the province [Redacted]
- There are currently six processing plants in Newfoundland and Labrador licensed to process shrimp. [Redacted]

S29(1)(a), 35(1)(d)

Alternatives:

[Redacted]

Prepared/Approved by: A. Burridge/ B. Hanlon
Ministerial Approval:

April 8, 2024



Annex A

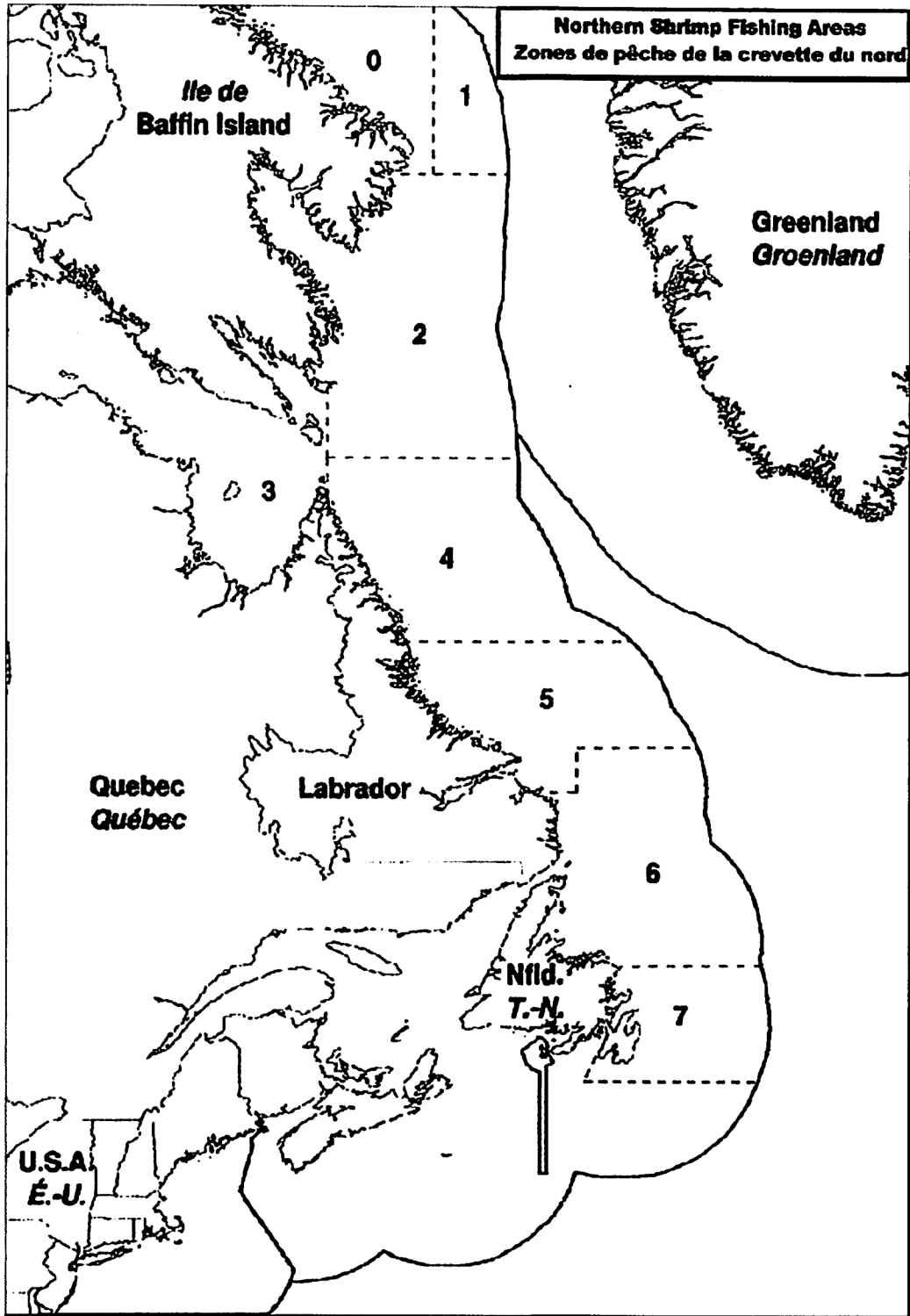


Figure 1: Shrimp Fishing Areas (SFAs)

Annex B

Total Allowable Catches (TACs) for SFAs 4 to 6 from 2015 to 2023:

Northern Shrimp TACs for SFA 4 – 6 (tonnes)			
Year	SFA 4	SFA 5	SFA 6
2015	14,971	23,300	48,196
2016	14,971	25,630	27,825
2017	15,725	22,000	10,400
2018	15,725	25,630	8,730
2019	10,845	22,100	8,960
2020	8,658	14,450	8,290
2021	9,957	16,080	9,534
2022	12,944	14,200	9,430
2023	14,886	14,200	9,430

Meeting Note
Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture
Minister's Meeting with Ocean Choice International (OCI) and Icewater Seafoods
April 29, 2024 at 10 AM
Petten Building, Executive Boardroom

Attendees:

Honourable Elvis Loveless, Minister, FFA
 Jamie Chippett, Deputy Minister, FFA
 Brendan Hanlon, Assistant Deputy Minister, FFA
 Paul Baldwin, Executive Assistant, FFA
 Carey Bonnell, OCI
 Blaine Sullivan, OCI
 Martin Sullivan, OCI
 Alberto Wareham, Icewater Seafoods

Purpose of Meeting:

- OCI and Icewater Seafoods (Icewater) have requested a meeting with the Minister to provide an update on company activities and general discussion pertaining to Northern cod.

Background

- OCI is a Newfoundland and Labrador Company, vertically integrated with four offshore factory freezer vessels (Shrimp, Yellowtail, Redfish, and other groundfish) and six licensed inshore fish processing plants. [REDACTED]

29(1)(a),
35(1)(d)

[REDACTED] The company is owned by Blain and Martin Sullivan.

- OCI would like to see a share of any northern cod commercial fishery quota allocated to the offshore fleet. In May 2021, the former Federal Fisheries Minister announced the decision to allocate the first 115,000 t of Northern Cod to the inshore sector and Indigenous groups.
- Icewater is a Newfoundland and Labrador company that operates a year-round processing facility in Arnold's Cove, NL. The plant processes groundfish and lumpfish [REDACTED]

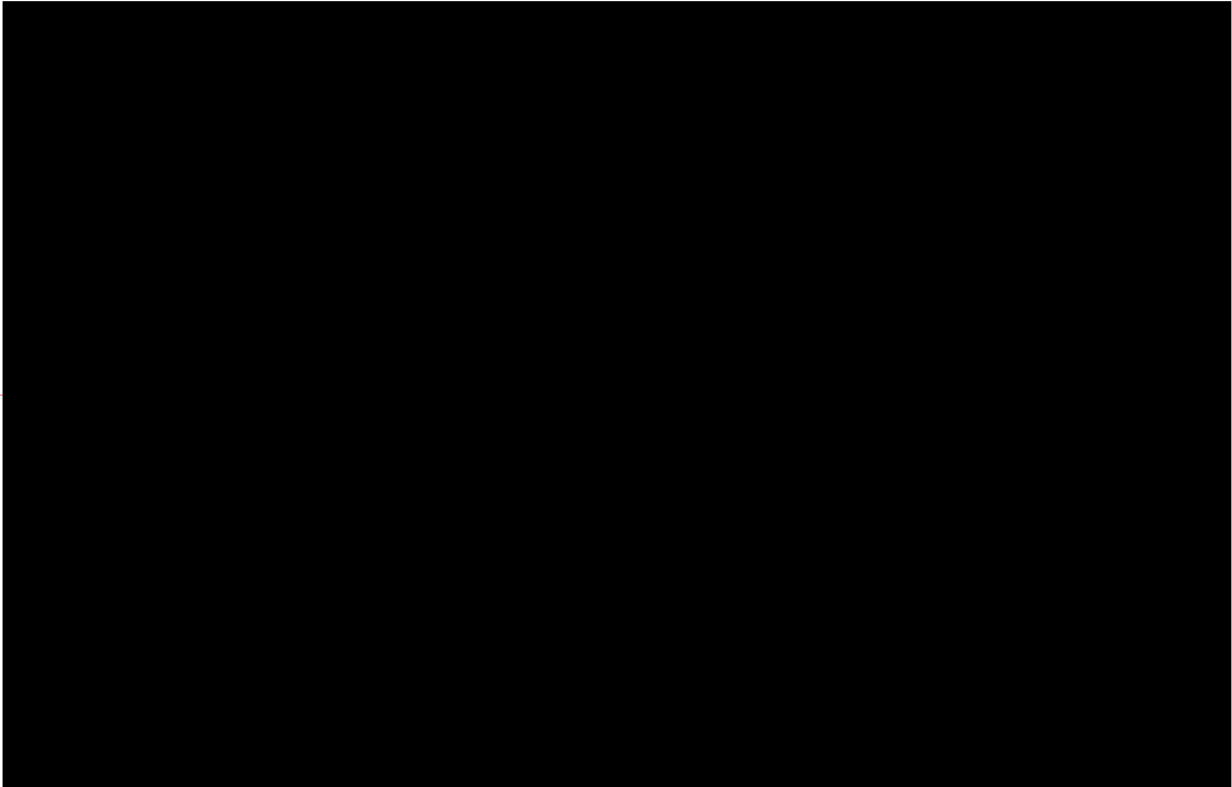
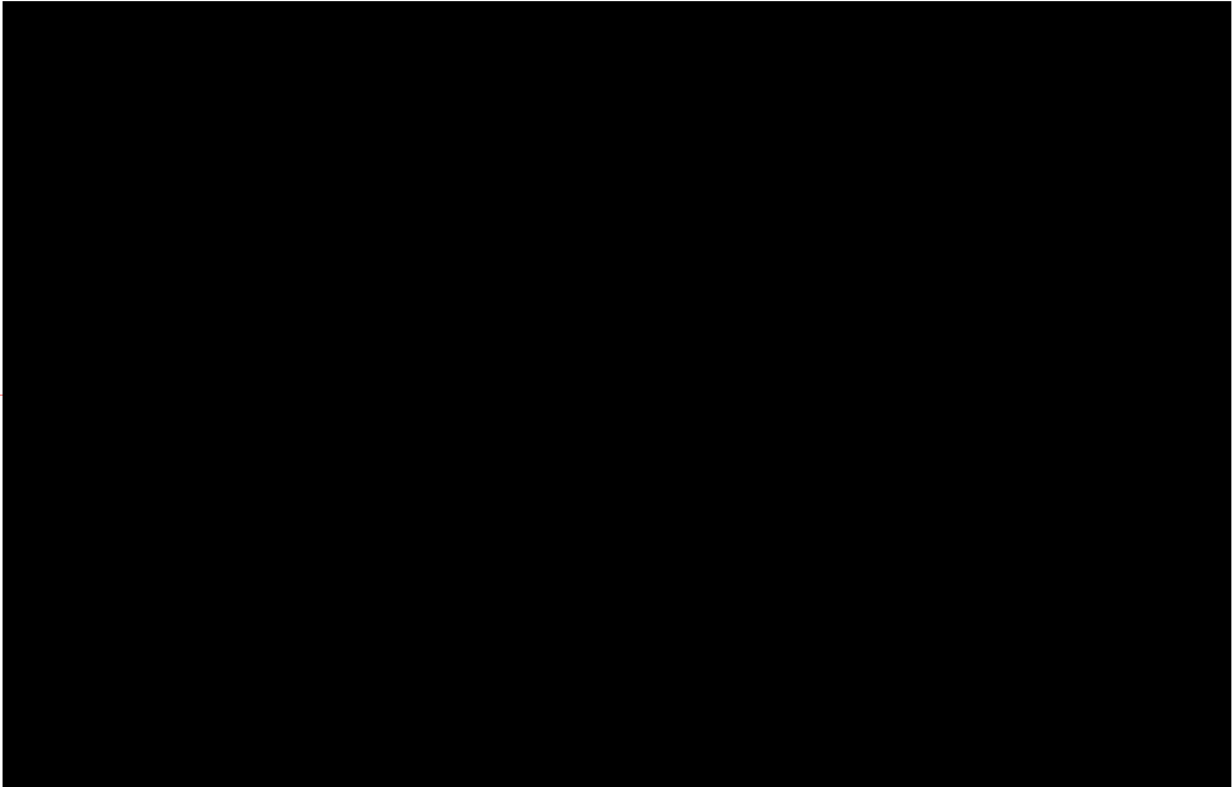
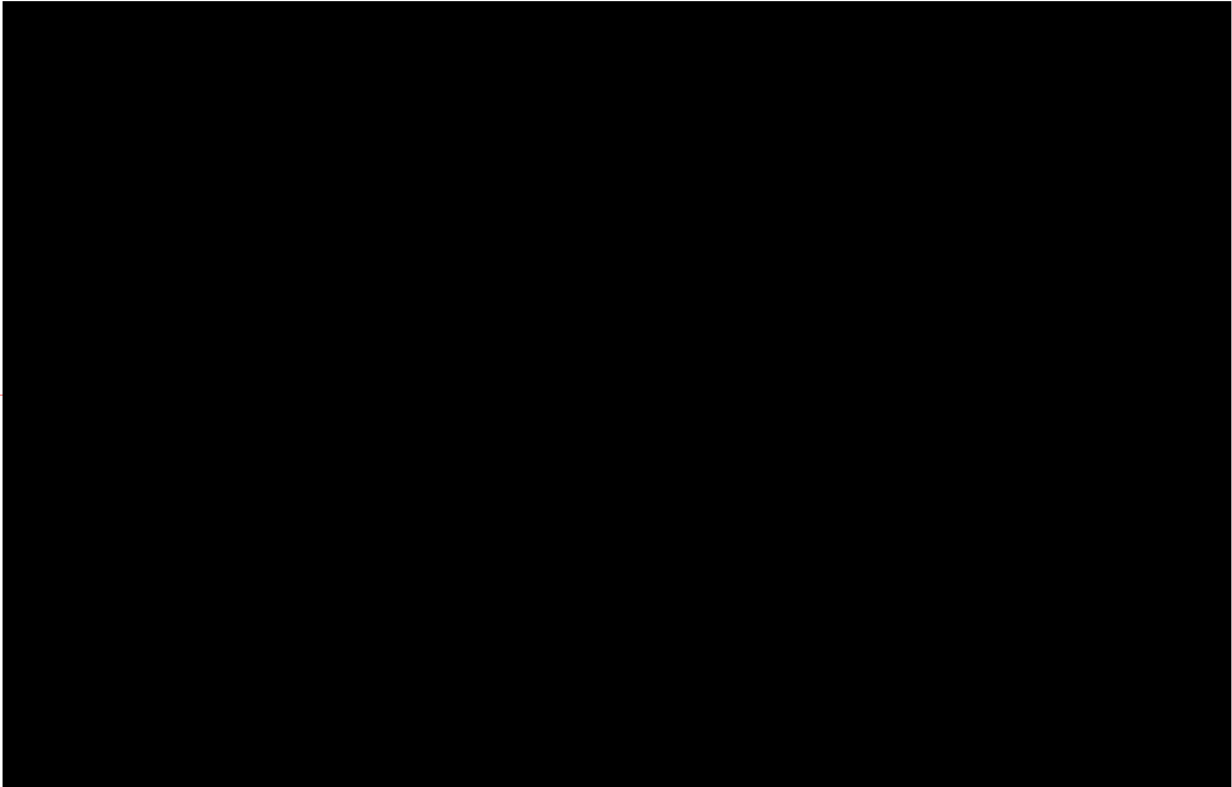
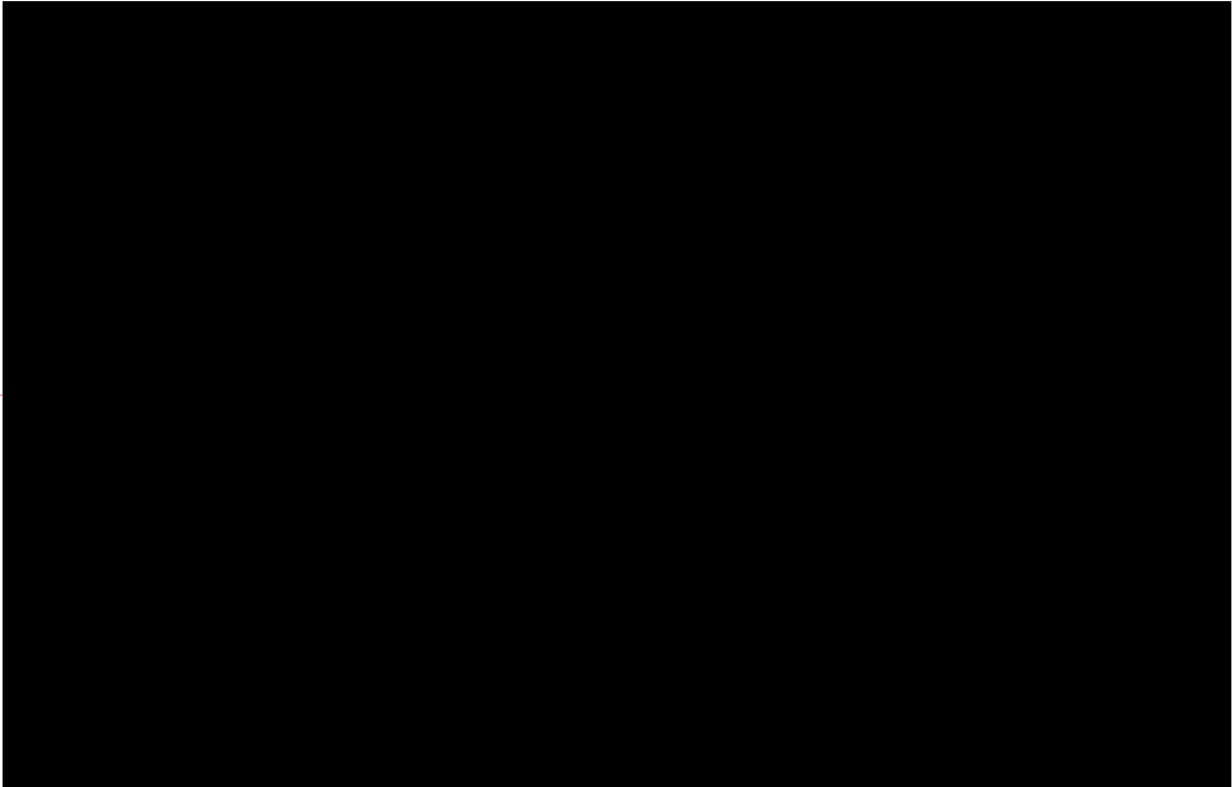
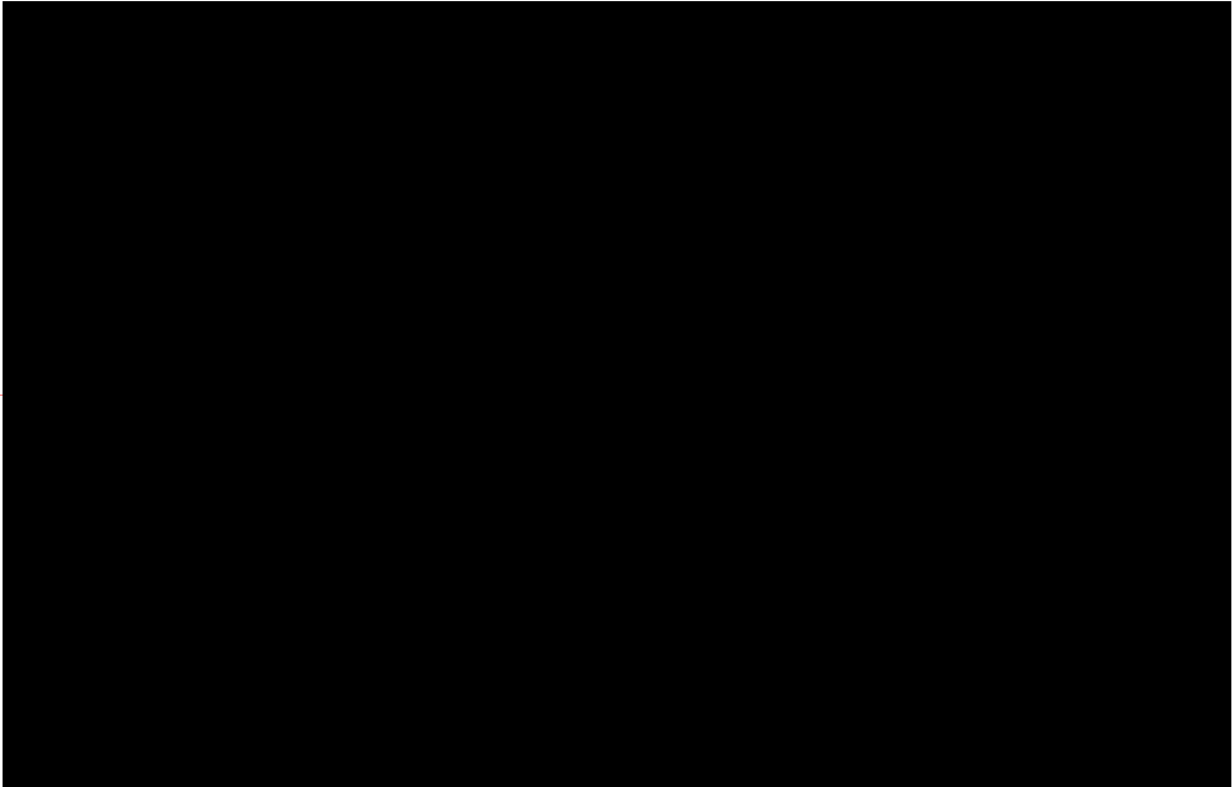
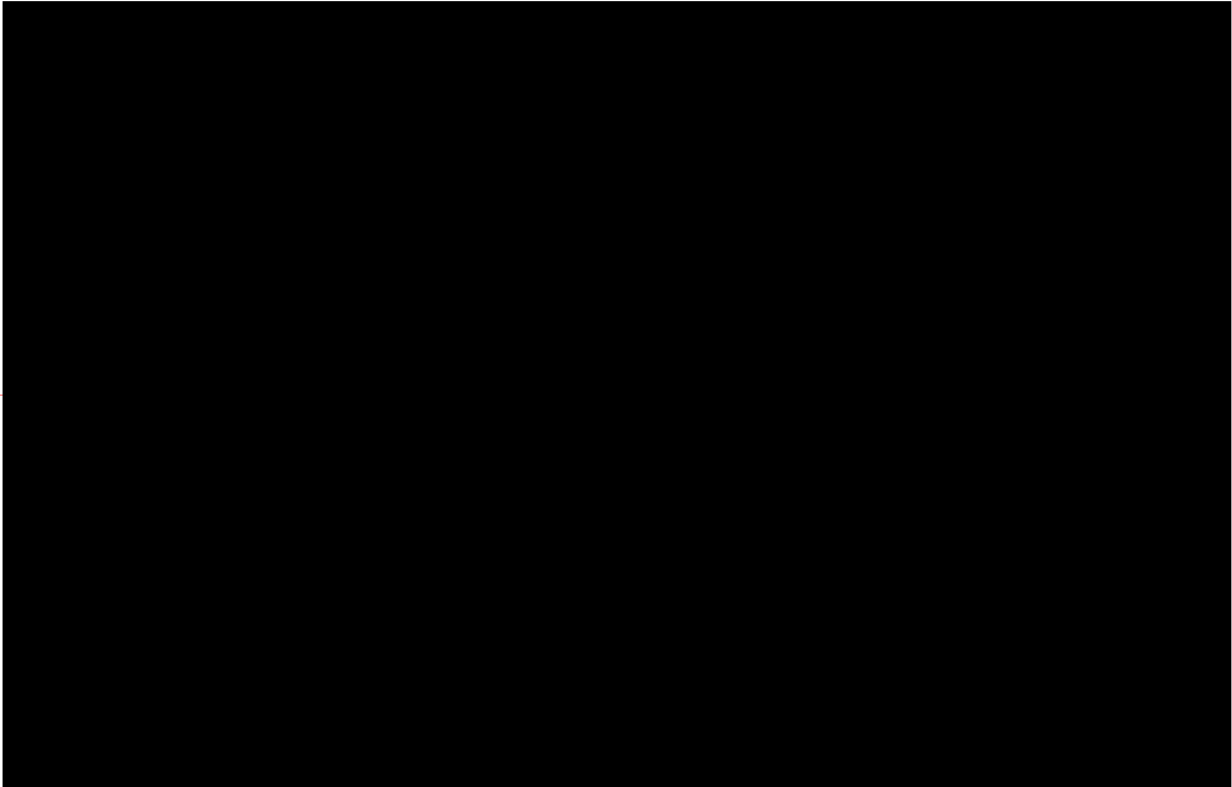
29(1)(a),
35(1)(d)

Northern Cod Update

- The Northern Cod Stewardship Fishery in Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) Divisions 2J3KL is managed by Fisheries in Oceans Canada (DFO) through a Maximum Authorized Harvest (MAH) stewardship fishery through limited entry and weekly landing limits.
- The Canadian Science Advisory Secretariat (CSAS) coordinates the scientific peer review and science advice for DFO. The CSAS provides departmental scientific advice and information on fish stock dynamics. CSAS meetings for the 2J3KL Northern Cod Stock (the stock) Assessment were held from March 18-21, 2024. The preceding assessment for the stock occurred in 2021.
- As per the 2024 assessment, the 2J3KL Northern Cod Stock is in the Cautious Zone of DFO's PA Framework, an announcement on TAC is expected in early to mid-May.

- The majority of 2J3KL Groundfish Advisory Council (GAC) members provided written recommendations to DFO on the 2024 MAH. There were strong opinions expressed as to whether the fishery should or should not be defined as a commercial fishery instead of a sentinel fishery.
- Should the fishery be managed as a commercial fishery, there will be implications to meet NAFO obligations (~5% of the MAH would be allocated to NAFO parties) and the mid-shore and offshore fleets would be expecting an allocation. At present, the MAH is harvested by the inshore fleet with some Indigenous participation.
- On April 9, 2024, FFA provided a written recommendation to DFO pertaining to the 2J3KL Northern Cod Stock indicating support of an increase above the 2023 MAH of 12,999 t and reminding DFO of the allocation considerations should the fishery be managed as a commercial fishery.
- The Minister of FFA has raised the issue of offshore allocation of 2J3KL Northern cod to the Minister of DFO on several occasions, most recently in writing October 5, 2023 and in person on January 17, 2024.

Icewater Seafoods Lease Agreement

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27(2)(b)

Potential Speaking Points

- Province stands by its position that Canadian offshore fleets should have access to 2J3KL cod before foreign offshore fleets.

- FFA will continue to participate and support industry stakeholders through participation in science assessments and advisory meetings and continue to advocate for an increase in the TAC for northern cod.
- The effective and sustainable management of NL's fishing industry has and will remain a top priority for the Government of NL.

29(1)(a)

• [REDACTED]

Prepared/Approved by: A. Burridge/B. Hanlon/J. Chippett
Ministerial Approval: Received from Hon. Elvis Loveless

April 25, 2024