

Information Note
Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture

Title: 2024 Eastern Fisheries and Aquaculture Ministers (EFAM) Meeting

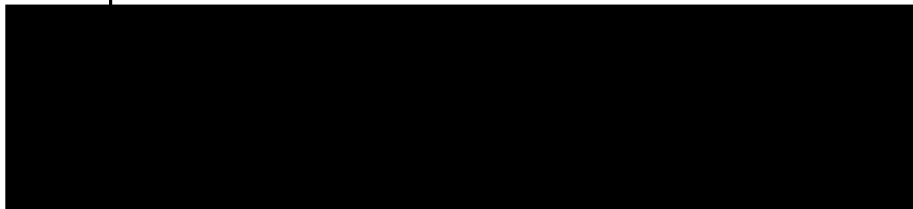
Issue: To provide an update on planning activities for the next EFAM meeting

Background and Current Status:

- EFAM consists of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Ministers from Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec and Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO).
- EFAM attempts to present issues relevant to the Atlantic/ Quebec regions to the DFO Minister via a collective, unified approach when possible.
- The last EFAM meeting occurred in July 2023 in advance of the 2023 Canadian Council of Fisheries and Aquaculture Ministers (CCFAM) meeting.
- The next EFAM meeting is tentatively scheduled for August 13, 2024 in Charlottetown, PEI.

Analysis:

- The provincial representatives have requested an EFAM meeting with the DFO Minister on August 13 in advance of the 2024 CCFAM meeting scheduled for August 14 and 15, 2024 in Charlottetown, PEI.
- The provincial representatives have begun development of an agenda for the EFAM meeting to discuss topics that are relevant for all jurisdictions.
- Proposed topics include:



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

Action Being Taken:

- FFA will continue to participate in the EFAM meeting planning, including development and finalization of the agenda.

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

Ministerial Approval: Received from Hon. Gerry Byrne

June 6, 2024



Information Note
Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture

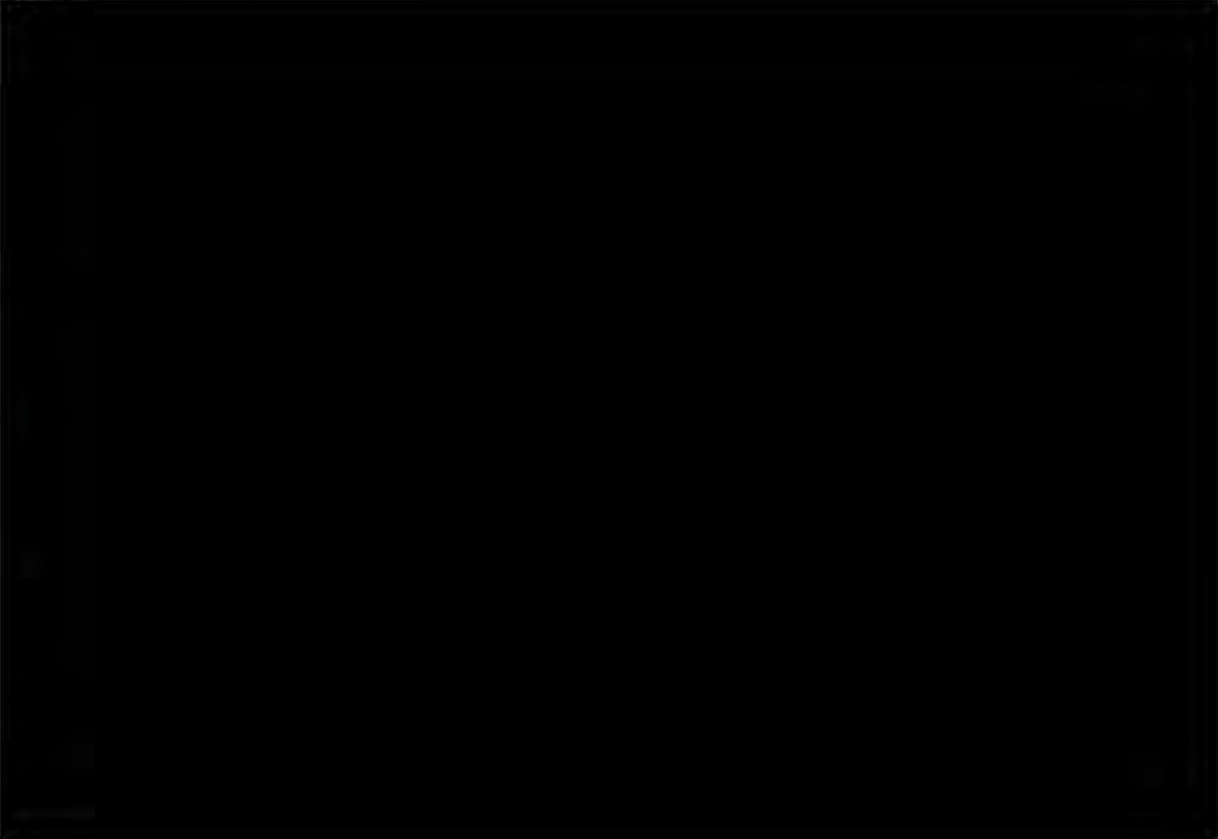
Title: Update on the 2024 Atlantic halibut fishery and the Canada-France Advisory Council (CFAC) Negotiations

Issue: The 2024 Atlantic halibut fishery has begun and ongoing international activities will impact negotiations between Canada and France regarding this fishery.

Background and Current Status:

- Consistent with the provisions of the Procès-verbal (PV), the CFAC, which includes representatives from Canada and France, met in person in Paris, France on March 19-21, 2024 to negotiate Total Allowable Catches (TACs) for bilaterally managed transboundary stocks.
- Newfoundland and Labrador participate in these negotiations along with Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) and industry representatives. Industry representatives present at the meeting included Icewater Seafoods Inc., Ocean Choice International (OCI), Atlantic Groundfish Council (AGC), and Harbour Grace Shrimp Company.
- In addition to the negotiation of TACs for bilaterally managed transboundary stocks, Canada and France attempted to negotiate a potential sharing agreement for Atlantic halibut in 3Ps. This negotiation was unsuccessful.

Analysis:

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29(1)(a)



- Industry stakeholders provided united correspondence to the Prime Minister of Canada on April 16, 2024 articulating the concerns pertaining to directed Atlantic halibut fisheries calling on both Canada and France to cooperate on this stock as per the PV.
- The Minister of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture (FFA) provided correspondence to the DFO Minister on May 7, 2024 encouraging the Government of Canada to utilize measures within the PV to advance negotiations with France in efforts to obtain an agreement on Atlantic halibut.



- Atlantic halibut is a key species for the fishing industry in Newfoundland and Labrador. In 2023, 1000 t of Atlantic halibut was landed in the province corresponding to a landed value that exceeded \$10 million. Export value for the province was estimated at \$22 million. The inshore was responsible for approximately 25% of this catch with the remainder going to mid-shore and offshore harvesters.

Action Being Taken:

- FFA will continue to support DFO and industry in advancing a sharing arrangement for Atlantic halibut that is fair and equitable for all parties and is sustainable.
- FFA will continue to advocate for sustainable management of stocks adjacent to our Province.
- Correspondence will be sent to the DFO Minister from the FFA Minister requesting immediate action to pursue an agreement with France for Atlantic halibut.

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

May 29, 2024



**Information Note
Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture**

Title: Aquaculture Governance

Issue: Modernization of the *Memorandum of Understanding on Aquaculture Development* (MOU) between the Government of Canada and the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador

Background and Current Status:

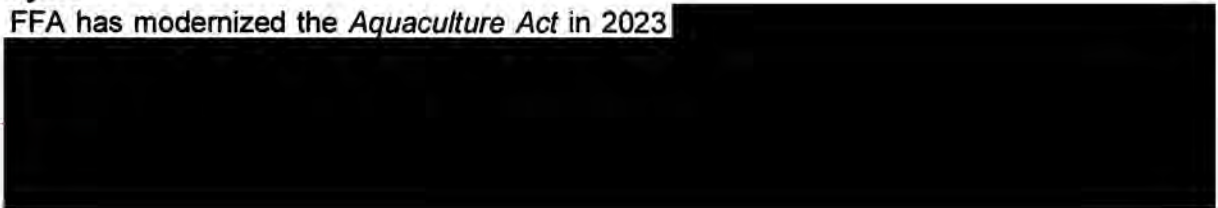
- The current *Memorandum of Understanding on Aquaculture Development* (MOU) between the Government of Canada and the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador regarding aquaculture was signed in 1988. Aquaculture management has evolved for both federal and provincial roles and responsibilities in the Aquaculture sector.
- The Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture (FFA) has developed a long standing and collaborative working relationship with the Fisheries and Oceans Canada NL Region and co regulate the sector under respective jurisdictional mandates.
- Provincial responsibilities include leasing/licensing, education/training, administration, compliance/inspection, statistics and aquatic animal health. Federal responsibilities include fish health protection and stock management.
- To enhance governance in the areas of fish health, inspections, statistics, and reporting it is timely that the MOU is updated as FFA has embarked on updating its Aquaculture Act and Regulations. The modernization is expected to provide clear governance regime that reflects current management for the growing aquaculture industry.

29(1)(a)



Analysis:

- FFA has modernized the *Aquaculture Act* in 2023



29(1)(a)

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29(1)(a)

- The current MOU will not be consistent with the new Aquaculture Act in terms of responsibilities, making it important to commence this process in the near future.

Next steps:

- The Fisheries and Aquaculture Branch, specifically the Aquaculture section will enter into discussions with Fisheries and Oceans Canada to renew and modernize the MOU reflect roles and responsibilities for Aquaculture Management in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Prepared / Approved by: S. Synard-McInnis/Dr. D. Whalen/B. Hanlon/ J. Chippett
Ministerial Approval: Received from Hon. Elvis Loveless

May 31, 2024

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Elvis Loveless", is written in a cursive style.

Information Note
Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture

Title: Update on Reopening of the 2024 Commercial Unit 1 Redfish Fishery

Background and Current Status:

- Redfish adjacent to Newfoundland and Labrador (NL) consists of two redfish species: *Sebastes (S) mentella* and *Sebastes (S) fasciatus*. The Unit 1 redfish stock includes redfish in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and the Cabot Strait in Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) Divisions 4RST, and from January 1 to May 31, Subdivisions 3Pn and 4VN (Annex 1: NAFO Regulatory Areas).
- Canadian Science Advisory Services (CSAS) coordinates the scientific peer review and science advice for Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO). A full stock assessment was not completed in 2023, however the status of the Stock Spawning Biomass (SSB) was determined. The status of the *S. mentella* stock in 2023 was in the healthy zone of the Precautionary Approach (PA) with a SSB of 2,302,000 t which corresponds to 8.7 times the Upper Stock Reference (USR). The estimated SSB of *S. fasciatus* was also in the healthy zone of the PA with a SSB of 181,000 t which is slightly above the USR.
- Potential removals have been determined based on estimates of mortality rate and biomass of fish larger than 22 cm. The range of realistic potential removals varied between 88,000 and 318,000 t with a median of 276,000 t for *S. mentella*. The removals identified for Unit 1 Redfish are unlikely to pose a conservation risk.
- DFO announced on January 26, 2024 that it would be reopening the commercial Redfish fishery with a two year start-up plan with a minimum 25,000 t total allowable catch (TAC) in Unit 1. The shares of the Redfish quota would be as follows:
 - Offshore 58.7%
 - Inshore mobile gear 14.8%
 - Mid shore mobile 5.7%
 - Inshore fixed gear bycatch 0.75%
 - Indigenous quota bank 10%
 - Shrimp harvesters 10%
 - Special Program for Gulf Plant 0%
- Following the January announcement, DFO met with industry, Indigenous groups, provincial governments and other stakeholders to discuss the TAC, management measures and concerns for Phase 1 of the commercial Unit 1 Redfish fishery.
- On May 31, 2024 DFO announced the management plan for the commercial Unit 1 Redfish fishery ([REDACTED]). Notable changes from the January 2024 announcement were:
 - The TAC for the 2024-25 Unit 1 Redfish fishery is increased to 60,000 t.
 - 5,000 t of the TAC will be held in reserve. The reserve allocation will be accessible by application and intended to provide additional incentive to licence holders who participated in the index and/ or experimental fishery, those who are ready to fish this year and/or those who have planned projects for the Redfish fishery.
- There was no change to the allocation key announced in January 2024 for Phase 1 of the Unit 1 Redfish fishery.

- The allocation of 5,500 t to Indigenous communities and organizations will be managed through an inter-regional competitive process.
- 5,500 t (10 per cent) of the TAC has been allocated to Estuary and Gulf of St. Lawrence shrimp harvesters. NL will receive 37 per cent (2,035 t) of this allocation. Quebec will receive 42 per cent (2,310 t) and New Brunswick will receive the remaining 21 per cent (1,155 t)
- 8,162.0 t (14.84 per cent) of the TAC has been allocated to the inshore fleet. The NL inshore fleet will receive 3,366.1 t (41.2 per cent) and Quebec will receive 3,578.5 t (43.8 per cent). The remaining 14.9 per cent are shared between New Brunswick (7.3 per cent), Nova Scotia (4.2 per cent) and Prince Edward Island (3.4 per cent).
- The midshore fleet allocation is determined by vessel type. The midshore fleet allocation of the TAC is 5.72 per cent (3,146 t) with 141.3 t allocated to crab vessels, 1,231.7 t to shrimp vessels and the remaining 1,773.1 t allocated to groundfish enterprise allocation vessels.
- The offshore fleet will receive 58.69 percent (32,279.5 t) of the TAC and this will be distributed as per existing enterprise allocations for groundfish vessels in the offshore fleet.

Analysis:

- Redfish stocks will provide an opportunity to maximize the benefits to this province. Future plans should ensure that Unit 1 Redfish is harvested sustainably and managed for the benefit of the people of NL. FFA has stated that access and allocation of fishery resources should recognize the principle of adjacency and historic attachment to the fishery, as well as Indigenous participation in the fishery going forward.

29(1)(a)

- [REDACTED]
- Multiple management measures were considered for the Unit 1 Redfish fishery. The main focus was to reduce bycatch of other species within the region. The measures include, but are not limited to area closures, depth restrictions, gear types, season duration and timing. All management measures for the Redfish fishery in Unit 1 are identified in the May 31, 2024 announcement ([REDACTED]).

Action Being Taken:

31(1)(l)

- FFA officials will continue to actively participate in the Redfish Advisory Council (RAC).
- The Minister will continue to advocate for changes to the allocation key for Phase 2 of the commercial Unit 1 Redfish fishery that align with the principles of adjacency and historical attachment to the fishery as well as Indigenous participation.
- FFA will continue to support investment in Redfish research and development projects where possible to increase efficiency, improve technology and build markets for the fishery.

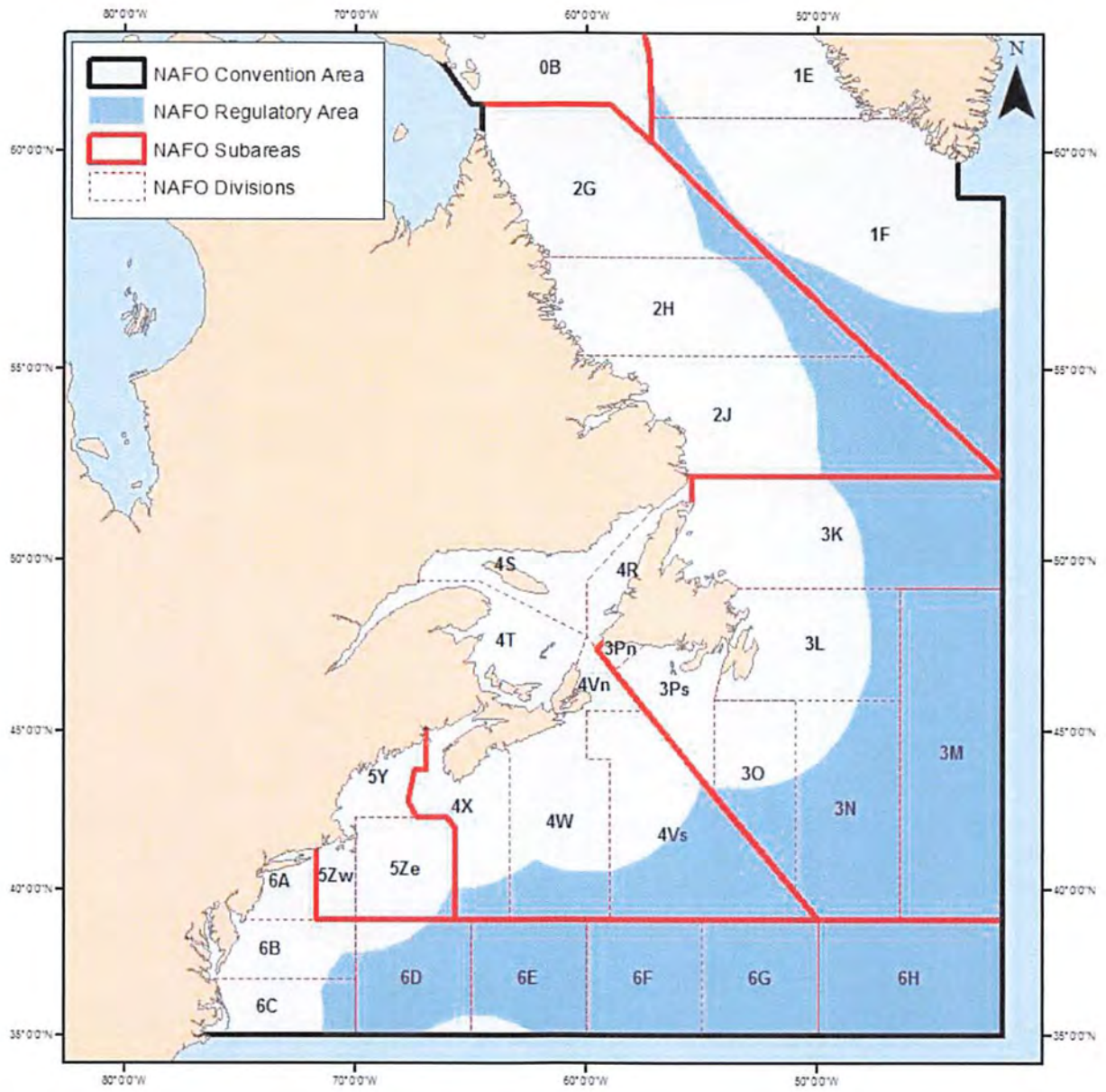
Prepared/Approved by:
Ministerial Approval:

A. Burrige/B. Hanlon/ J. Chippett
Received from Hon. Elvis Loveless

June 3, 2024



ANNEX 1: NAFO Regulatory Areas





TO: REDFISH ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RAC)/
AU: COMITÉ CONSULTATIF DU SÉBASTE (CCS)

[French follows - le français suit]

UNIT 1 REDFISH MANAGEMENT PLAN 2024-25

Ottawa – May 31, 2024 – The Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) today announces the management plan for the commercial Redfish fishery in Unit 1 for the 2024-25 fishing season. A Total Allowable Catch (TAC) of 60,000 tonnes (t) is established for a one-year period from May 15, 2024, until May 14, 2025. The opening date will be confirmed in a separate Notice to Fish Harvesters.

From this TAC, 5,000 t will be set aside and held in reserve. This reserve allocation will be accessible by application and is intended to provide additional incentive to licence holders who participated in the index and/or experimental fishery, as well as those who are ready to fish this year, and/or those who have planned projects for the Redfish fishery. A Notice of Interest will be sent ahead of the fishery opening. Applications will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

The remaining 55,000 t will be allocated as per the allocation key announced on January 26, 2024, below:

Fleet	Allocation (in percentages)	Amount (t)
Offshore mobile gear (MG) fleet sector (vessels >100')	58.69	32,279.5
Inshore MG fleet sector (vessels <65')	14.84	8,162.0
Midshore MG fleet sector (vessels 65-100')	5.72	3,146.0
Inshore fixed gear (bycatch)	0.75	412.5
Indigenous communities and organizations	10.00	5,500.0
Estuary and Gulf of St. Lawrence (ESGL) Shrimp Harvesters	10.00	5,500.0

The allocation to Indigenous communities and organizations, totaling 5,500 tonnes, will be managed through an inter-regional competitive regime. Any Indigenous community or organization that holds an inshore (<65 ft) or midshore (65-100 ft) mobile gear groundfish licence with access to Unit 1 (4RST and 3Pn, 4Vn from Jan-May) can access this allocation. A Notice of Interest will be sent ahead of the fishery opening.

The allocation of Redfish to Estuary and Gulf of St. Lawrence (ESGL) shrimp harvesters, totalling 5,500 t, will be distributed as follows:

Fleet	Share (in percentages)	Amount (tonnes)
Quebec	42	2,310.0
Newfoundland and Labrador	37	2,035.0
New Brunswick	21	1,155.0

The inshore fleet (vessels less than 65') shares will be as follows:

Fleet	Share (in percentages)	Amount (tonnes)
Newfoundland and Labrador	41.2	3,366.1
Nova Scotia	4.2	343.1
New Brunswick	7.3	596.4
Prince Edward Island	3.4	277.8
Quebec	43.8	3,578.5

Recognizing that some DFO administrative regions straddle multiple provincial boundaries, the total share for Maritimes region will be 2.54% (207.5t) and the total share for Gulf region will be 12.36% (1009.8t).

The midshore fleet (vessels 65' to 100') shares will be as follows:

Fleet	Share (in percentages)	Amount (tonnes)
Crab vessels	4.5	141.3
Shrimp vessels	39.2	1,231.7
Groundfish enterprise allocation vessels	56.4	1,773.1

The offshore allocation will be distributed according to existing enterprise allocations for groundfish vessels in that fleet.

The Department will use the established bycatch caps for certain Gulf of St. Lawrence stocks subject to rebuilding plans to guide management of the Unit 1 redfish fishery. These bycatch caps for the Unit 1 Redfish fishery will be distributed according to the allocation key and the 5,000 t reserve allocation, as follows:

Fleet	3Pn4RS Cod (t)	4T White hake (t)	4TVn Cod (t)
Reserve allocation	1.7	1.5	1.3
MG>100'	10.8	9.8	8.1
MG<65'	2.7	2.5	2.1
MG 65-100'	1.1	1.0	0.8
Indigenous fleet	1.8	1.7	1.4
Gulf shrimp fleet	1.8	1.7	1.4
Total	20.0*	18.0	15.0

*This total bycatch amount is pending approval of the 3Pn4RS cod management plan for 2024-25.

The Department will monitor bycatch landings. Once a fleet reaches the caps indicated above, the Department will assess whether additional bycatch allowance can be re-allocated and may close the Unit 1 redfish fishery to that fleet for the remainder of the fishing season.

The management plan for Unit 1 Redfish also introduces several management measures aimed at limiting and effectively monitoring bycatch, to ensure that this fishery is carried out sustainably. These management measures are summarized in the table below:

Management Measure	Requirement
Fishing season	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 4RST open June 15 - December 31 - 3Pn and 4Vn open January 1 - March 31 - All Unit 1 closed from April 1 - June 15 to protect Redfish spawning
Area Restrictions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fishing is authorized only between 59° and 65° West longitude - Portions of division 4T closed to fishing to protect juvenile groundfish, as specified in CHP - Fishing prohibited in established coral and sponge conservation closures
Depth Restriction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - From June 15 to October 31, fishing authorized only at depths greater than 300m (164 fathoms) - From November 1 to March 31, fishing authorized only at depths greater than 183m (100 fathoms)
Gear Type	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - From June 15 to October 31, fishing authorized with otter trawl with a minimum mesh size of 90mm - From November 1 to March 31, fishing authorized only with midwater trawl with a minimum mesh size of 90mm
Bycatch protocol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bycatch limit of 1% per trip for each of 4T white hake, 4T American plaice, 4T winter flounder, 4TVn cod, 3Pn4RS cod, Atlantic halibut, and Greenland halibut.
At Sea Observer (ASO) Coverage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 100% ASO coverage required at all times of year for vessels larger than 100 feet <p><u>For vessels smaller than 100 feet:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 25% ASO coverage required from June 15 to October 31 - 100% ASO coverage required from November 1 to March 31
Dockside Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 100% industry funded dockside monitoring
Reporting Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Daily catch reporting for all fleets
Vessel Monitoring System (VMS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - VMS required onboard and operational on all vessels fishing - VMS reporting 4 times per hour (every 15 minutes)

Electronic Logbooks (ELOGS)	- Mandatory use of a qualified ELOGS application for all inshore licence holders (<65').
Electronic Camera Monitoring	- Voluntary participation in electronic camera monitoring pilot project

DFO will work with license holders and fleet representatives in the coming weeks to implement the Unit 1 Redfish management plan and prepare for fishery opening. This includes, among other things, the development of Conservation Harvesting Plans (CHPs).

Todd Williams
Chair
RAC



UNITÉ 1 PLAN DE GESTION DU SÉBASTE 2024-2025

Ottawa – 31 mai, 2024 – Le ministère des Pêches et des Océans (MPO) annonce aujourd'hui le plan de gestion de la pêche commerciale du sébaste de l'unité 1 pour la saison de pêche 2024-2025. Un total autorisé des captures (TAC) de 60 000 tonnes (t) est établi pour une période d'un an, du 15 mai 2024 au 14 mai 2025. La date d'ouverture sera confirmée dans un Avis aux pêcheurs.

De ce TAC, 5 000 t seront mises de côté et gardées en réserve. Cette allocation en réserve sera accessible à la demande et visera à fournir une opportunité supplémentaire aux titulaires de permis qui ont participé à la pêche indicatrice et/ou expérimentale, ainsi qu'à ceux qui sont prêts à pêcher cette année et/ou à ceux qui ont prévu des projets pour la pêche du sébaste. Un Avis d'intérêt sera diffusé avant l'ouverture de la pêche et les demandes seront évaluées au cas par cas.

Les 55 000 t restantes seront allouées conformément à la clé d'allocation annoncée le 26 janvier 2024 :

Flottille	Répartition (en pourcentage)	Allocation (t)
Flottille hauturière (navires > 100') avec engins mobiles (EM)	58,69	32 279,5
Flottille côtière (navires < 65') avec engins EM	14,84	8 162,0
Flottille semi-hauturière (navires de 65' à 100') avec EM	5,72	3 146,0
Flottille côtière avec engins fixes (prises accessoires)	0,75	412,5
Communautés et organisations autochtones	10,00	5 500,0
Pêcheurs de crevette de l'estuaire et du golfe du Saint-Laurent (EGSL)	10,00	5 500,0

L'allocation aux communautés et groupes autochtones, totalisant 5 500 t, sera gérée au moyen d'un régime concurrentiel interrégional. Toute communauté ou organisation autochtone titulaire d'un permis de pêche côtière (navires de 65') ou semi-hauturière (navires de 65' à 100') du poisson de fond aux engins mobiles avec accès à l'unité 1 (4RST et 3Pn, 4Vn de janvier à mai) peut accéder à cette allocation. Un Avis d'intérêt sera diffusé avant l'ouverture de la pêche.

L'allocation de sébaste de l'Unité 1 des pêcheurs de crevette de l'estuaire et du golfe du Saint-Laurent (EGSL), totalisant 5 500 t, sera répartie de la manière suivante :

Flottille	Part (en pourcentage)	Allocation (t)
Québec	42	2 310,0
Terre-Neuve-et-Labrador	37	2 035,0

Nouveau-Brunswick	21	1 155,0
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L'allocation de la flottille côtière (navires de moins de 65') sera répartie de la manière suivante :

Flottille	Part (en pourcentage)	Allocation (t)
Terre-Neuve-et-Labrador	41,2	3 366,1
Nouvelle-Écosse	4,2	343,1
Nouveau-Brunswick	7,3	596,4
Île-du-Prince-Édouard	3,4	277,8
Québec	43,8	3 578,5

Reconnaissant que certaines régions administratives du MPO chevauchent plus d'une province, la part totale pour la région des Maritimes sera de 2,54 % (207,5 t) et la part totale pour la région du Golfe sera de 12,36 % (1 009,8 t).

Les parts de la flottille semi-hauturière (navires de 65' à 100') seront les suivantes :

Flottille	Part (en pourcentage)	Allocation (t)
Crabiers	4,5	141,3
Crevettiers	39,2	1 231,7
Entreprise de pêche du poisson de fond sous allocations d'entreprises (AE)	56,4	1 773,1

L'allocation de la flottille hauturière (navires de plus de 100') sera répartie en fonction des allocations d'entreprises existantes pour les entreprises de pêche du poisson de fond de cette flottille.

Le Ministère utilisera les plafonds de prises accessoires établis pour certains stocks du Golfe du Saint-Laurent assujettis à des plans de rétablissement afin d'orienter la gestion des différentes pêches dont celle du sébaste de l'unité 1. Les plafonds de prises accessoires établis pour la pêche du sébaste de l'Unité 1 seront distribués en fonction de la clé d'allocation et de l'allocation en réserve de 5 000 t, de la manière suivante:

Flottille	Morue 3Pn4RS (t)	Merluche blanche 4T (t)	Morue 4TVn (t)
Allocation en réserve	1,7	1,5	1,3
EM > 100'	10,8	9,8	8,1
EM < 65'	2,7	2,5	2,1
EM 65'-100'	1,1	1,0	0,8
Communautés et organisations autochtones	1,8	1,7	1,4
Pêcheurs de crevette de l'EGSL	1,8	1,7	1,4
Plafond total	20,0*	18,0	15,0

*Ce montant total des prises accessoires est en attente d'approbation du plan de gestion de la morue 3Pn4RS pour 2024-2025.

Le Ministère surveillera les captures et débarquements de prises accessoires. Lorsqu'une flottille atteindra l'un des plafonds indiqués ci-dessus ou l'une des allocations établies pour

couvrir les prises accessoires des autres stocks, le Ministère évaluera si une allocation supplémentaire pour les prises accessoires peut être réaffectée à cette flottille. Dans le cas contraire, la pêche de cette flottille pourrait être fermée pour le reste de la saison de pêche.

Le plan de gestion du sébaste de l'Unité 1 inclut également plusieurs mesures de gestion visant à limiter et à surveiller efficacement les prises accessoires, afin de s'assurer que cette pêche est effectuée de manière durable. Ces mesures de gestion sont résumées dans le tableau ci-dessous :

Mesure de gestion	Exigences
Saison de pêche	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pêche ouverte dans les divisions 4RST du 15 juin au 31 décembre - Pêche ouverte dans les divisions 3Pn et 4Vn du 1er janvier au 31 mars - Pêche dans l'Unité 1 fermée du 1er avril au 15 juin pour protéger le sébaste durant le frai
Restrictions de zones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pêche autorisée seulement entre 59° et 65° de longitude ouest - Portions de la division 4T fermées à la pêche pour protéger les poissons de fond juvéniles, tel que spécifié dans les PPAC - Pêche interdite dans les fermetures établies pour la conservation des coraux et des éponges
Restrictions de profondeurs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Du 15 juin au 31 octobre, pêche autorisée uniquement à des profondeurs supérieures à 300 m (164 brasses) - Du 1er novembre au 31 mars, pêche autorisée uniquement à des profondeurs supérieures à 183 m (100 brasses)
Type d'engins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Du 15 juin au 31 octobre, pêche autorisée au moyen de tous types de chalut à panneaux d'un maillage minimal de 90 mm - Du 1^{er} novembre au 31 mars, pêche autorisée uniquement avec un chalut pélagique d'un maillage minimum de 90 mm
Protocole de suivi des prises accessoires	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Limite de prises accessoires de 1 % par voyage pour la merluche blanche 4T, la plie canadienne 4T, la plie rouge 4T, la morue 4TVn, la morue 3Pn4RS, le flétan atlantique et le flétan du Groenland.
Couverture par les observateurs en mer (OEM)	<p><u>Pour les navires de plus de 100 pieds</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 100 % couverture par les OEM exigée à tout moment de l'année <p><u>Pour les navires de moins de 100 pieds :</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 25 % de couverture par les OEM exigée du 15 juin au 31 octobre - 100 % de couverture par les OEM exigée du 1^{er} novembre au 31 mars
Vérification à quai	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 100% de vérification à quai

Exigences en matière de rapports	- Déclaration quotidienne des captures pour toutes les flottilles
Système de surveillance des navires (SSN)	- SSN obligatoire et opérationnel pour tous les navires de pêche - SSN émettant un signal 4 fois par heure (aux 15 minutes)
Journaux de bord électroniques (JBE)	- Utilisation obligatoire d'une application JBE qualifiée pour tous les titulaires de permis côtiers (<65')
Surveillance électronique au moyens de caméras	- Participation volontaire au projet pilote de surveillance électronique au moyen de caméras

Le MPO travaillera avec les représentants des flottilles et titulaires de permis au cours des prochaines semaines pour mettre en œuvre le plan de gestion de la pêche du sébaste de l'Unité 1 et se préparer à l'ouverture de la pêche. Cela comprend entre autres l'élaboration des Plans de pêche axés sur la conservation (PPAC).

Todd Williams
Président
CCS

Information Note
Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture

Title: 2024 2J3KLPs Capelin Fishery

Issue: Update on the 2024 management measures for 2J3KLPs capelin.

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 with regard to the outlook for capelin.
- There are two separate capelin fisheries in NL. One occurs mainly off the east/northeast coast in Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) Divisions 2J3KLPs and the other is in the Gulf of St. Lawrence (NAFO Divisions 4RST).
- The 2J3KLPs capelin fishery is prosecuted by inshore vessels using either mobile gear (purse seines) or fixed gear (tuck seines or traps). The offshore fishery has been under moratorium since 1991. The primary market is for roe-bearing female capelin; therefore, the fishery occurs as capelin move shoreward to spawn in late spring/early summer. A condition of provincial processing licenses requiring full utilization of capelin, has been in effect since 2006.
- In March 2023, 2J3KLP capelin was assessed and a Limit Reference Point (LRP) was established. The LRP was lowered to 155,000 tonnes (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.
- On April 9, 2024, the Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture (FFA) provided a written recommendation () to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) supporting a status quo Total Allowable Catch (TAC) OF 14,533 t for 2024.
- On June 4, 2024, DFO announced that the TAC for 2J3KLPs capelin is set at 14,533 t for 2024. The TAC is allocated to the respective NAFO areas and fleets according to existing sharing arrangements (Annex 1).

Analysis:

- The TAC for 2J3KLPs capelin was 14,533 t in 2023 and 11,335t (78 per cent) of the TAC was landed.
- 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 1986-90 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 330,000t which is above the LRP of 155,000t.



- Capelin are an integral component of the ecosystem on NL Shelves. Continued low abundance is inhibiting the recovery potential of other finfish (e.g., Northern cod). A new LRP was adopted for this stock in 2023. The model sets an LRP for capelin based on how much capelin needs to be seen in the spring acoustic biomass survey for Northern cod to rebuild to the LRP (the point between the Critical and Cautious Zone) as capelin are a critical food source for cod.
- Fishery removals of capelin are small, relative to consumption in the ecosystem. A complete closure of the fishery would likely have little impact on the health of the stock; however, with decreasing predation and an overall declining trend in stock size, the proportional impact of fishing has increased.

29(1)(a)



Action Being Taken:

- FFA will continue to follow and participate in capelin assessments, advisory meetings and other matters pertaining to the fishery.

Prepared/Approved by:

S. Coombs/R. Rice/A. Burrige/B. Hanlon/ J. Chippett

Ministerial Approval:

Received from Hon. Elvis Loveless

June 5, 2024

Annex 1: 2J3KLPS capelin allocations

2024 allocations by area

Area	Gear Type	Quota
2J	Fixed	58
	Total	58
3K	Mobile	1,144
	Fixed	3,964
	Total	5,108
3L	Mobile	3,254
	Fixed	5,145
	Total	8,399
3Ps	Mobile	111
	Fixed	857
	Total	968
2024 TAC	Total	14,533

BRIEFING NOTE - Meeting Note
Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture
June 10, 2024
Virtual Meeting

Attendees: Chicken Farmers of Newfoundland and Labrador Board of Directors

Purpose of Meeting:

- Board has requested a meeting with the Minister to discuss several issues related to chicken production in the province.
- The CFNL board has indicated six issues of interest for discussion with the Minister, with five of the six items dealing with regulations under the **Chicken Marketing Scheme**. Many of the issues are related to one another. The following are the issues by order of priority:
 1. Exempt marketings
 2. Hatchery regulations
 3. Modernization of Chicken Marketing Scheme and Regulations
 4. Board reconstitution
 5. Overmarketing levy
 6. New agreement with Country Ribbon

Background:

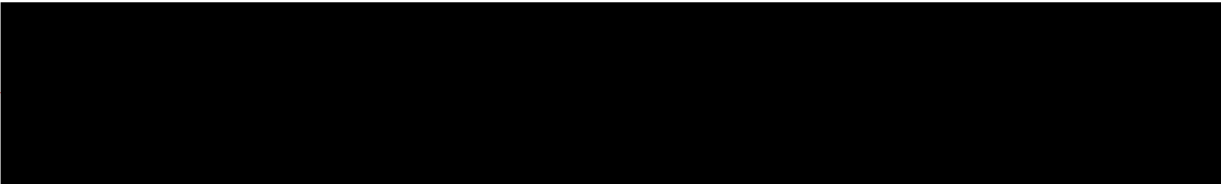
- Chicken production is one of the three supply managed commodities in Newfoundland and Labrador. Supply management is a regulatory system that operates under three pillars: production control, price control and import control.
- The Chicken Farmers of Newfoundland and Labrador (CFNL) was established in 1980 under the authority of the **Newfoundland and Labrador Chicken Marketing Scheme** under the Natural Products Marketing Act. The purpose and intent of the CFNL is to promote, regulate and control the production and marketing of chicken by producers and processors within the province, including the prohibition of production or marketing of chicken.
- Chicken production reached a record high production in 2023 of 17.9 million kilograms (eviscerated weight). There is no public estimate available on the value of production, but the Department estimates that it exceeds \$53 million at the farm gate. The value of processed product by Country Ribbon is unknown.
- It takes 6 – 8 weeks for chicken to be raised to market weight. This is reflected in quotas being set at eight-week intervals.
- The provincial industry consists of one processor (Country Ribbon) which is also the main producer of birds. Country Ribbon supplements its farm production through a handful of individual contract growers.
- The Chicken Farmers of Newfoundland and Labrador (CFNL) consists of four members, all appointed by the Minister. Current board members are:
 - Theresa Heffernan – Chair (end date June 18, 2027)
 - Carol Anne Walsh – Vice chair and employee of the Agriculture Production & Research Division of the Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture (end date February 9, 2027)
 - Davis Noel (end date February 09, 2027)
 - Ruth Noseworthy (end date June 08, 2024)
- The CFNL maintains one full time position – Ron Walsh, Executive Director.

- Over the five-year period (2018/19 to 2022/23), \$1.48 million was invested in the industry under the Canadian Agriculture Partnership (a Federal-Provincial cost shared agreement). Investment was made to enhance poultry housing, energy efficiency upgrades, and manure management on farms. Included in this total was a \$800,000 investment provided to Country Ribbon Inc. for air-chill technology in the chicken processing facility to enable them to supply new markets (e.g., Costco) and support food self-sufficiency, and \$324,755 for Chicken Farmers of NL to purchase depopulation trailers to enable the sector to mitigate risks in case of disease outbreak.
- In 2023-24, the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (federal-provincial cost shared agreement) provided \$205,227 to chicken farmers for enhanced on-farm feeding systems and energy efficiency technology.

Agenda item #1 – Exempt Marketings

- Under the **Chicken Marketing Scheme**, the commodity board has the authority, subject to approval from the Farm Industry Review Board, to “exempt from this Order a producer or processor or class of producers or processors,”
- Currently, the **Chicken Farmers of Newfoundland and Labrador Quota Regulations** requires all chicken producers to have a licence, however, an exception is made for producers with less than 100 chickens. The regulations do not indicate if this is 100 chickens over a period (e.g., calendar year) or 100 at any given time. Newfoundland and Quebec have the lowest rates for exemptions in Canada at 100 birds.

Analysis

- Chicken production quota is established at the national level and then allocated to provinces. The quota applies to all chicken produced in the province including chicken produced by exempt farms (i.e., producers with less than 100 chickens).
- As a result, producers with less than 100 chickens are unregulated. Currently, there is no information on the number of these unregulated producers, or the volume of chicken produced by them. There are no regulations under the **Chicken Marketing Scheme** requiring exempt producers to report their production to the CFNL.
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29(1)(a)

[The first 5 of 6 agenda items deal with regulations. The following Speaking Points and Action Items apply to these five agenda items]

Potential Speaking Points

- The Province has made significant investments to ensure the continued success of the chicken industry in Newfoundland and Labrador. It has also declared the importance of improving our food self-sufficiency.
- The Department will continue to support the industry in its efforts to maintain the integrity of its orderly marketing system, but those efforts must include the importance of our goal to improve food self-sufficiency.

Proposed Actions

- The Department to work with CFNL to identify means to ensure that the board can fulfill its duties while maintaining our commitment to improving food self-sufficiency.

Agenda item #2 – Hatchery regulations

- This item is related to exempt marketings.
- Currently, there is only one registered chicken broiler hatchery in the province – Atlantic Poultry Inc. in Whitbourne.
- There are no regulations under the **Chicken Marketing Scheme** requiring hatcheries to report the sale of chicks to the CFNL.
- The provincial **Poultry and Poultry Products Act** covers hatcheries. This Act concerns the production and marketing of poultry and poultry products in the Province. The Act provides for the establishment of advisory committees (sect. 3), regulates inspections and grading (sect. 7), provides for certification (sect. 11) and misbranding (sect. 12), and defines offences and penalties. This Act was not designed to provide support to the chicken or egg boards. There are no regulations under this Act with respect to hatcheries, hatching eggs or sale of chicks.

Analysis

- An unknown number of chicks and eggs for hatching are being sold in the province. This would include shipments from hatcheries outside as well as unregulated hatcheries/sellers within the province.
- There is no requirement for hatcheries or sellers to report sales to CFNL.

Agenda Item # 3 - Modernization of Scheme and Regulations

- The last major revision of the **Chicken Marketing Scheme** occurred in 2000, shortly after the closure of Integrated Poultry and the arrival of Country Ribbon.
- Changes to the Scheme and regulations gave government more control of the chicken industry (relative to the dairy and egg sectors) and included:
 - recognition of government authority and control of production quota,
 - provided Minister authority to appoint all members of the CFNL board,

Analysis

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29(1)(a)

Agenda Item #4 - Board Reconstitution

- The **Chicken Marketing Scheme** provides that the board of the Chicken Farmers of Newfoundland and Labrador shall consist of no less than three members and no more than

five. All members are appointed by the Minister. Currently, the board consists of four members with one member's term set to expire June 8, 2024.

- The current board members are:
 - Theresa Heffernan – Chair
 - Carol Anne Walsh – Vice chair and employee of the Agriculture Production & Research Division of the Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture,
 - Davis Noel
 - Ruth Noseworthy

Analysis

- Of the three commodity boards (dairy, chicken, and eggs), only CFNL is fully appointed by the Minister. This is due to the provincial government being the sole holder of chicken quota in the province.
- The current vacancy was created after the resignation [REDACTED]

40(1)

Agenda Item #5 – Over Marketing Levy

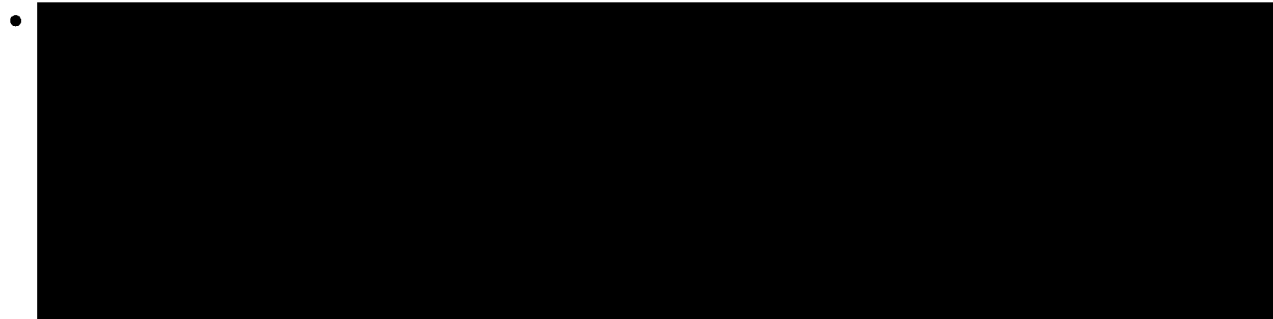
- Over-marketing falls under the **Assessment of Over-Marketing Regulations, 2009**. An audit period refers to any two consecutive eight-week production periods.
- If, during any audit period, a producer markets over 102% of their production license then that producer is charged an over-marketing levy of \$0.44 / kg liveweight for every kilogram of chicken over that rate. An additional \$0.44/kg liveweight is assessed for production above the 104% of the production license.
- In addition, in the year following the over-marketing year, that producer must have their production license reduced by one kilogram for every kilogram they had over-marketed in the previous year.
- The Over Marketing Levy is paid by the provincial board (i.e., CFNL) to the national agency (Chicken farmers of Canada). The provincial board then collects the levy from producers that over marketed.

Analysis

- The Province is the sole quota holder with Country Ribbon being the sole license holder.
- Reducing the production license would, in effect, reduce the provincial production volume.

Agenda Item #6 - New Agreement with Country Ribbon

- In March 2022, Government, CFNL and Country Ribbon entered into a Memorandum of Understanding in relation to production quota, processing plant and property, and sale of government held shares in Country Ribbon.



35(1)(d)

- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]

35(1)(d)

Analysis

- Information on the current status of this item was not available to department officials at the time of preparing this note.

- [Redacted]

Potential Speaking Points

29(1)(a)

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Proposed Actions

-

Prepared/Approved by: D. Houlihan, M. Gallant / First Initial and Surname of Director (if appropriate)/First Initial and Surname of Deputy Minister or designate

Ministerial Approval: Received from Hon. [Minister's Name] (type out)
Signature

June 5, 2024

Meeting Note
Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture (FFA)
Minister's Meeting with Fish, Food, and Allied Workers Union (FFAW) 4R Shrimp
Committee
June 19, 2024
St. John's – Petten Building

Attendees:

Honourable Elvis Loveless, Minister, FFA
Jamie Chippett, Deputy Minister, FFA
Bren Hanlon, Assistant Deputy Minister, FFA
Paul Baldwin, Executive Assistant, FFA
Greg Pretty (FFAW), President
Jason Spingle (FFAW), Secretary-Treasurer
Rendell Genge (FFAW), 4R Shrimp Committee - Chair
Jason Spence (FFAW), 4R Shrimp Committee
Guy Gallant Jr. (FFAW), 4R Shrimp Committee

Purpose of Meeting:

- In an email dated May 30, 2024, Jason Spingle, requested a meeting with Minister Loveless to provide updates on the latest shrimp and Unit 1 Redfish developments with the 4R shrimp committee.
- The proposed agenda:
 - Introductions
 - Gulf shrimp
 - Current Status (Quota reductions in 2024 including SFA 6);
 - Buyback / Support (Latest Proposal);
 - Imminent Bankruptcies
 - Unit 1 Redfish
 - 2024 Management Plan – Changes Required;
 - Recovery Panel (PMO);
 - Sustainable Fisheries Work – Review of Work Done / Required (Funding)

Background:

- FFAW is the largest private sector union in Newfoundland and Labrador, representing more than 15,000 workers, most of whom are employed in the fishing industry.
- In January 2024, FFAW asked Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) for a buyback program for the 4R and Gulf shrimp fleets. The request, on behalf of a Gulf Coalition included:
 1. Federally / provincially funded license buyback program to reduce the number of boats in this fleet and ensure a more sustainable owner-operator fishery during transition from shrimp to Redfish;
 2. Short-term, emergency funding to enterprise owners to assist with urgent financial needs associated with the declining shrimp fishery; and
 3. Increased allocation of Redfish for the Gulf Shrimp Fleet including those within the gulf with traditional <65' otter trawl by an additional 25,000 t than what has already been allocated.

- In January and February 2024, FFAW released multiple statements requesting additional Redfish allocation for the 2024-2025 season for inshore harvesters.
- In April 2024, FFAW and the Association of Seafood Producers (ASP) issued a joint statement asking for the Shrimp Fishing Area (SFA) 6 shrimp fishery to be opened immediately.
- In May 2024, FFAW met with leaders of DFO and discussed the delayed opening of SFA 6 shrimp, and the longstanding commitment from the federal government of the first 115,000t of 2J3KL Northern cod being allocated only to the inshore owner-operator fishery and Indigenous groups.

Agenda Item #1: Gulf Shrimp

- The Estuary and Gulf of St. Lawrence (EGSL) shrimp fishery is managed as four Shrimp Fishing Areas (SFAs)
 1. Esquiman Channel (SFA 8);
 2. Anticosti (SFA 9);
 3. Sept-Îles (SFA 10); and
 4. Estuary (SFA 12)
- The Newfoundland and Labrador (NL) fleet, based in Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) Division 4R, only fish in SFA 8. See Annex A for a map of Gulf SFAs.
- The 4R fleet is the majority quota holder for shrimp in SFA 8, holding 65 per cent of the Total Allowable Catch (TAC). There are currently 34 shrimp licenses for NAFO Division 4R on the west coast of the province (includes most of the Esquiman Channel).
- In April 2022, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) put a two-year TAC decision in place to gradually reduce the SFA 8 TAC. The 2024 TAC for SFA 8 is 1,757 tonnes (t), reduced from 4,222t in 2023 and 4,825t in 2022.
- Shrimp stocks in the EGSL are scientifically assessed every two years. The latest scientific assessment shows that the stock health decreased in all areas in 2021. SFA 8, 9 AND 12 are in the healthy zone, while SFA 10 stock is in the cautious zone of the precautionary approach (PA) framework.
- The PA Framework has stock status zones (healthy, cautious, and critical), which are used to determine the health of the stock. This fishery is Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certified requiring that TAC decisions are guided by science advice.
- SFA 8,9, and 10 stocks are within the healthy zone while SFA 12 stock is in the cautious zone. All stocks are showing a declining trend.
- The warming of deep waters and increase of redfish eating shrimp appear to be important factors contributing to the decline of shrimp. The areas that shrimp is found is shrinking every year and ocean ecosystem conditions is not expected to improve in the short to medium term.
- Concerns for the future of this fishery include the decline of the shrimp stocks, increased operating costs for harvesters and the negative impacts on shrimp only processing plants located on the Northern Peninsula.

Analysis

- In early 2024, DFO announced a significant cut in Gulf shrimp TAC from 14,524 t in 2023, to 3,060 t for the 2024 season.
- The 2024 Total Allowable Catches (TAC) per Shrimp Fishing Area (SFA) are:
 - Estuary (12): 473t
 - Sept-Îles (10): 342t
 - Anticosti (9): 488t
 - Esquiman (8): 1,757t
 - **Total: 3,060t**
- In SFA 8, NL shrimpers are allocated 1,143.8t under individual quotas.
- Industry has expressed that the shrimp fishery is not profitable, and in many cases, harvesters are struggling to financially break even. There's continued concern that there may not be a viable fishery in 2024 under the current management measures.
- FFAW has proposed a buyback program to DFO including a stipulation to include where a license be bought back from a licence holder within NL, the licence and the quota will be redistributed back to another harvester from NL not to any other province. FFAW's proposal also included a request to DFO to reopen the commercial Redfish fishery in Unit 1, which overlaps with EGSL shrimp fishing areas.
- There are currently six primary processing plants in NL licensed to process shrimp.
- Should a harvester licence buyback occur for the 4R fleet, there will be fewer harvesters landing raw material which may have an impact on shrimp processing plants.

Potential Speaking Points

- FFA will continue to work with DFO and industry, monitoring the status of the both the EGSL shrimp fishery and the reopening of the Unit 1 commercial Redfish fishery.
- FFAW will continue to work with industry to build responsible and economically viable programs to support the province.

Agenda Item #2: Northern Shrimp

- 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 SFA's. 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.
- On June 3, 2024, DFO announced that the TACs for northern shrimp (SFA 4-6) had been established as per the 2-step Harvest Decision Rule (HDR) endorsed by the Northern Shrimp Advisory Committee (NSAC).
- The TACs were adjusted to account for the calculation error identified in the model. The detailed announcement is available in [REDACTED].

Analysis

31(1)(l)

- TACs for Northern shrimp in SFA 4-6 were announced on June 3, 2024. The TAC for SFA 6 has decreased by 5.5% to 8,909 t as derived by the 2-step HDR endorsed by NSAC.
- Allocations in SFA 4-6 are based on a previously established shares. There were no changes to these shares and specific allocations can be seen in [REDACTED] 31(1)(l)
- Northern shrimp in SFA 6 is in the Critical Zone of the PA framework and requires approval of a rebuilding plan under the FSPs. As per the June 3, 2024 announcement, the rebuilding plan has been approved by the DFO Minister and will be published within 120 days.

Potential Speaking Points

- In April, FFA communicated to DFO the support for TACs as determined by the 2-step Harvest Decision Rule (HDR) for 2024-2025.
- FFA will continue to participate and support Northern shrimp industry stakeholders through participation in NSAC.
- Sustainable fisheries management decisions need to be made within a well-established framework. FFA will continue to support the Precautionary Approach framework and assist with implementation of the Northern shrimp rebuilding plan where possible.

Agenda Item #3: Unit 1 Redfish

- DFO announced on January 26, 2024, that it would be reopening the commercial Redfish fishery with a two year start-up plan with a minimum 25,000 t TAC in Unit 1. The shares of the Redfish quota would be as follows:
 - Offshore 58.7%
 - Inshore mobile gear 14.8%
 - Mid shore mobile 5.7%
 - Inshore fixed gear bycatch 0.75%
 - Indigenous quota bank 10%
 - Shrimp harvesters 10%
 - Special Program for Gulf Plant 0%
- On May 31, 2024, DFO announced the management plan for the commercial Unit 1 Redfish fishery [REDACTED]. Notable changes from the January 2024 announcement were:
 - 31(1)(l) ○ The TAC for the 2024-25 Unit 1 Redfish fishery is increased to 60,000 t.
 - 5,000 t of the TAC will be held in reserve.
- The reserve allocation will be accessible by application and intended to provide additional incentive to licence holders who participated in the index and/ or experimental fishery, those who are ready to fish this year and/or those who have planned projects for the Redfish fishery.

Analysis

- Redfish stocks will provide an opportunity to increase economic benefits from the fishery to the province. Future plans should ensure that Unit 1 Redfish is harvested sustainably and managed for the benefit of the people of NL. FFA has stated that access and allocation of fishery resources should recognize the principle of adjacency and historic attachment to the fishery, as well as Indigenous participation in the fishery going forward.

29(1)(a)

- [REDACTED]
- Multiple management measures were considered for the Unit 1 Redfish fishery. The main focus was to reduce bycatch of other species within the region. The measures include, but are not limited to area closures, depth restrictions, gear types, season duration and timing. All management measures for the Redfish fishery in Unit 1 are identified in the May 31, 2024 announcement ([REDACTED]). 31(1)(l)
- On June 5, 2024, DFO held a Redfish Advisory Council (RAC) meeting to review the 2024-2025 Unit 1 Redfish Management plan. Harvesters, processors and other industry stakeholders expressed to DFO that the current plan was unacceptable, and more stakeholder consultation was needed before implementation.
- There are currently 48 primary processing plants in NL licensed to process groundfish, which includes redfish.

Potential Speaking Points

- On April 26, 2024, in a letter to the DFO Minister, FFA requested a Redfish TAC increase to at least 50,000 t while considering changes to the allocation key that would focus on the principles of adjacency, historical attachment, and Indigenous reconciliation to ensure a fair and equitable share for Newfoundland and Labrador.
- FFA officials will continue to actively participate in the Redfish Advisory Council (RAC).
- The Minister will continue to advocate for changes to the allocation key for Phase 2 of the commercial Unit 1 Redfish fishery that align with the principles of adjacency and historical attachment to the fishery as well as Indigenous participation.
- FFA will continue to support investment in Redfish research and development projects where possible to increase efficiency, improve technology and build markets for the fishery.

Prepared/Approved by: R. Rice/ A. Burrige/ B. Hanlon/ J, Chippett
Ministerial Approval: Received from Hon. Elvis Loveless

June 13, 2024

Annex A:

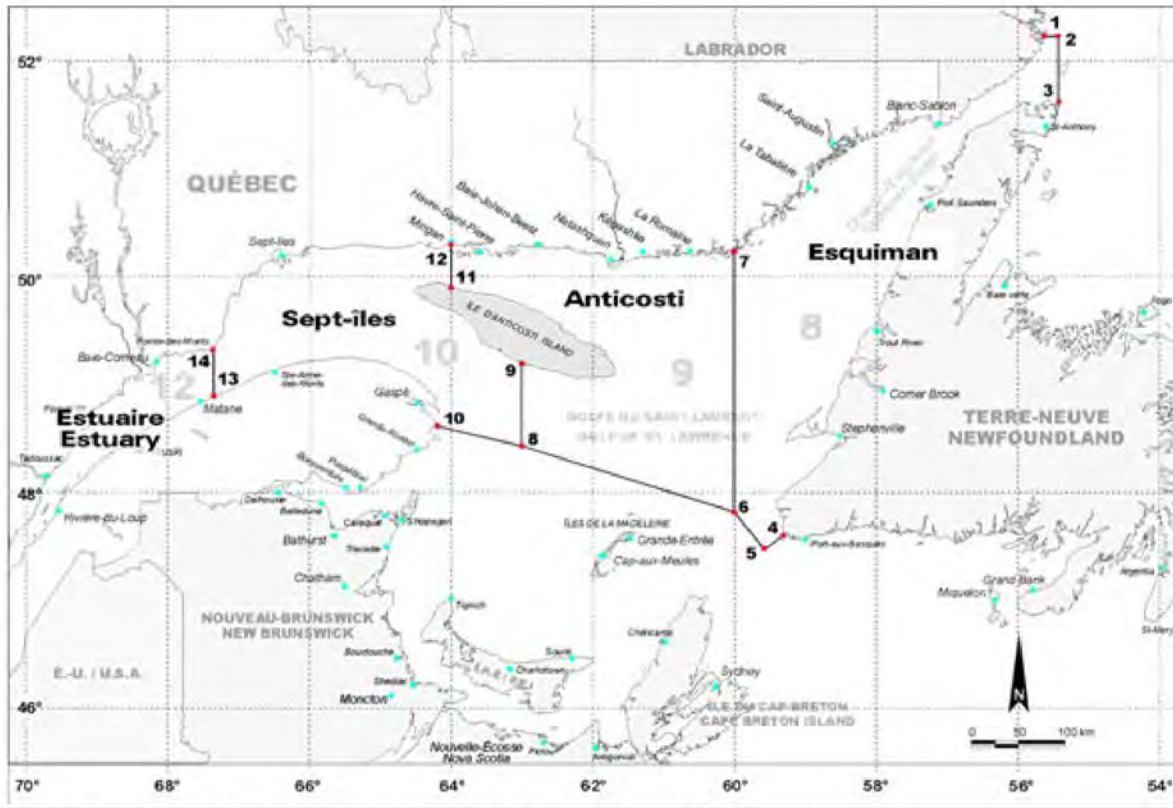


Figure 1: Shrimp Fishing Areas (SFAs) in the Gulf of St. Lawrence

Meeting Note
Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture
Sharing the Harvest NL, Coalition of People with Disabilities, and Food First NL
Wednesday June 19 at 1 pm
Petten Building, 30 Strawberry Marsh Road

Attendees:

Honourable Elvis Loveless, Minister of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture
Barry Fordham, Sharing the Harvest NL
Gord Casey
Nancy Reid, Coalition of People with Disabilities NL
Les Perry, Food First NL

Purpose of Meeting:

- Barry Fordham has requested a meeting to discuss Sharing the Harvest NL and improvements to the Program for Hunters and Anglers with Disabilities.
- Mr. Fordham has recently spoken with Minister Loveless in Gander at the Newfoundland and Labrador Outfitters Association Outdoor Show in April.

Background:

Sharing the Harvest

- Sharing The Harvest NL (STHNL) is a not-for-profit organization incorporated on November 11, 2020 to facilitate the donation of moose meat to food programs and food banks throughout the province.
- The Community Food Sharing Association (CFSA) manages the collection and distribution of food through 54 food banks across Newfoundland and Labrador and has supported the collection and distribution of donated game meat.
- Starting in 2020 and running for three years, a pilot project was implemented under the authority of the existing legislation to allow hunters to donate moose meat to food banks and for food banks to distribute the meat to clients.
- The results of the pilot project were used, in consultation with the CFSA and other interested stakeholders such as STHNL, to prepare recommended amendments to the **Wild Life Act** and **Regulations** to ensure long term implementation of the program.
- Amendments to the **Wild Life Act** were created in 2022 followed by new **Wild Life Regulations** in 2023 allowing food banks to obtain a permit to receive donations of big game meat from a licence holder that has been prepared by a licensed butcher and small game meat, except migratory birds, which could then be distributed by food banks to its' clients.
 - Current legislation allows for the issuance of a donated game licence to a registered food bank to accept donated meat.
 - Food banks can only accept donations of game meat directly from a licence holder. Legislation does not allow for third party organizations such as STHNL to accept game meat directly from hunters and in turn provide to food banks.
 - Food banks are responsible for the collection of information from the hunter including their name address and big game licence information.

- Food banks are responsible for the privacy and protection of personal information provide by hunters.
- There are inherent risks with respect to maintenance of information privacy if third parties become involved in this process.
- Food banks are permitted to distribute game meat to their clients.
- Food banks are responsible for making monthly returns to the Wildlife Division including the name and address of licence holders who donate game meat, the amount of donations received during the month, quantities distributed during the month and the stock at hand at the end of the month.

- Statistic from initial pilot and full implementation program.

YEAR	# of Permits	TOTAL DONATIONS	TOTAL DONATONS DISTRIBUTED
2020 - Pilot *	13	635 lbs moose meat	635 lbs moose meat
2021 - Pilot *	9	145 lbs moose meat	145 lbs moose meat
2022 - Pilot *	8	983 lbs moose meat	983 lbs moose meat
2023**	8	290 lbs moose meat 12 snowshoe hare	290 lbs moose meat 10 snowshoe hare

* Pilot Project From 2020 to 2022, Legislation implemented 2023

**Reports from 2023 season still being collected and entered

Program for Hunter and Anglers with a Disability (PHAD)

- Under the Newfoundland and Labrador **Wild Life Act** and **Regulations** a licence holder is not permitted to transfer a licence to another eligible hunter.
- The **Wild Life Regulations** does, however, outline conditions allowing persons with a disability affecting hunting activities to apply for eligibility in the PHAD program and designate a hunter to hunt on behalf of moose or caribou licence holder with a disability, provided the licence holder remained in sight of the designated hunter.
- Enhancements to the legislation occurred in 2017 allowing the designated hunter to remain within 800 meters or line sign of sight, whichever is greater, of the person with the disability.
- Approximately 3783 of resident hunters are eligible to apply for a big game licence under the PHAD.

Agenda item #1 (Sharing The Harvest NL)

- In the meeting request, Mr. Fordham noted the following regarding this agenda item:
 - STHNL would like more support from government other than a one paragraph blurb in the hunting guidebook that doesn't identify STHNL or what they do.
 - Is it possible to add a leaflet of donation information in the mail out notifications?
 - Would government financially support STHNL?
 - STHNL questions why participating food banks should have to renew their permit every year, noting that food banks often change staff and may not be aware of the program.
 - STHNL would like to have access to game meat and fish that has been confiscated from poachers and road killed moose.
 - STHNL would like to discuss the Premier's complimentary annual moose license and if it can be donated to food banks?

Analysis

- The donation of wild game to charities and organization is permitted in the majority of Canadian provinces and territories that support food security and other interests and includes legislation to control illicit trade which would impact species conservation and management of wildlife.
- Uptake on the new permit has remained low and donations have decreased substantially last year but there are still reports coming in from a few food banks.

Potential Speaking Points

- It is possible the Department could aid in promoting public awareness involving provisions allowing food banks to receive and give wild game to the public through various forms, which include the Hunting and Trapping Guide and social media.
- Providing financial support to STHNL is not within the Department's scope of practice. There are mechanisms that non-governmental organizations can use to generate funding through licenced activities legislated by the Department of Digital Government and Services NL that could support this initiative more broadly.
- The **Wild Life Act and Regulations** requires as part of the conditions for issuing permits and licences, including food banks, that they be issued annually, similar to all other licences and permits issued by the Wildlife Division.
- Forfeitures of game meat confiscated by Resource Enforcement Division as evidence during court proceedings may have been held for extended periods of time and confiscated under a variety of conditions which may not make it suitable for human consumption. Therefore, the Department would not support the request at this time to access game meat and fish that has been confiscated from poachers and road killed moose. Health and safety concerns over road killed moose prevents this source of meat from being donated to foodbanks.
- Section 91 of **Wild Life Regulations** allows the Minister of FFA to issue game and fishing licences, tags and seals free of charge to the Lieutenant-Governor, the Premier, former premiers and distinguished visitors to the province. These may only be issued on request and does not permit transfer to another individual or group and is up to the licence holder to decide if they wish to donate the meat or fish, subject to the legislation.

Proposed Actions

- FFA Communications Branch to review and recommend options to increase awareness related to food sharing in the Hunting and Trapping Guide and social media during suitable periods.

Agenda item #2 (Program for Hunters and Anglers with Disabilities)

- In the meeting request, Mr. Fordham noted the following regarding this agenda item:
 - Seeking an update on where the PHAD currently is and if an announcement will be made in advance of the 2025 big game hunting season.
 - Posed the question – will disabled hunters and anglers can be granted the option of going on the hunt or staying home, noting that during the Recreational Groundfish Fishery (i.e. Food Fishery), a disabled fisher can get a doctor's note and have someone else to catch five fish on their behalf.

Analysis

- The majority of Canadian provinces/territory do include some form of legislation supporting persons with disabilities but do not allow full proxy. NL and British Columbia both include condition supporting persons with disabilities in the field using a designated option.
- Nine jurisdictions allow firearm discharge permits allowing persons with disabilities to hunt from a vehicle to support accessibility opportunities.
- Public Consultations will likely be required prior to implementing changes.

Potential Speaking Points

- The Department has completed its review of current legislation and assessing other licencing systems and legislation across Canada to determine options to improve opportunities for persons with disabilities as well as other resident hunters.
- The department has developed a plan to provide access to harvested big game for individuals who cannot participate in the hunt. This change requires regulatory amendments and a significant overhaul of the Wildlife Information Management System. That work is ongoing.
- The Department will announce any changes to the public in time for the 2025-26 hunting season and will continue to consult with stakeholders and residents as required during the process.
- Currently the department is focusing on the big game moose and caribou licencing programs and are not considering changes to the inland fish angling or the small game hunting.

Proposed Actions

- N/A.

Prepared/Approved by: A. Whiteway/ C Baldwin/ S Moores/C. Dredge/ J. Chippett
Ministerial Approval: Received from Hon. Elvis Loveless

June 14. 2024

Information Note
Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture

Title: Newfoundland and Labrador Recreational Cod Fishery

Issue: Update and current status of the recreational cod fishery for 2024.

Background and Current Status:

- The cod fishery holds a strong historic and cultural connection in Newfoundland and Labrador (NL). The fishery was abundant for hundreds of years, but the large industrialization of the fishery quickly diminished cod stocks well below sustainable levels.
- On July 2, 1992, Federal Fisheries Minister John Crosbie announced a cod moratorium in NL, the largest industrial closure in Canadian history. Over 35,000 fish harvesters and plant workers from over 400 coastal communities became unemployed.
- In early 2000's an annual recreational food fishery was established to allow residents and tourists of the province the opportunity to fish the social and cultural important species.
- On June 21, 2024, the management measures were announced for the recreational cod fishery, status quo from last years measures.
- The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador (GNL) supports the recreational cod fishery, and the rebuilding and sustainable management of Atlantic cod is a top priority.

Analysis:

- The recreational groundfish fishery will occur in all NAFO areas/subareas around Newfoundland and Labrador, which includes 2GH, 2J3KL, 3Ps, 3Pn and 4R. Three exceptions are the Eastport, Gilbert Bay and Laurentian Channel Marine Protected Areas (MPA) where recreational groundfish fishing will not be permitted.
- The management measures for the recreational cod fishery are as follows:
 - Will be open for a total of 39 days starting on June 29 from Saturday to Monday and closing on September 2.
 - Also open from Saturday, September 21, 2024 to Sunday, September 29, 2024.
 - The recreational fishery is open to both residents and non-residents.
 - Recreational fishers are limited to five (5) groundfish per day (including Cod).
 - The maximum boat limit when three or more people are fishing is 15 groundfish.
 - High grading of groundfish is not permitted and no fish are permitted to be wasted.
 - Retention of Atlantic halibut, Spotted and Northern wolffish, and any species of shark is prohibited. Sculpins and cunners may be released. All other groundfish caught must be retained and are part of the daily bag limit of 5 groundfish.
 - All fish caught must be retained in a readily identifiable state, processing such as, skinning, cutting into sections, packing or otherwise at sea is not permitted.
 - Only angling gear and handlines with a maximum of three hooks are permitted.

Action Being Taken:

- GNL will continue to advocate to ensure management measures for this fishery reflect best interests of Newfoundlanders and Labradorians.

Prepared/Approved by:
Ministerial Approval:

S. Coombs/ R. Rice/ B. Hanlon/ J. Chippett
Received from Hon. Elvis Loveless

June 21, 2024

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Elvis Loveless", is written diagonally on the right side of the page.