



*Gulf Region*

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# *Notice to Fish Harvesters*

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**2023-2024 GULF NOVA SCOTIA – ATLANTIC HALIBUT (4T)  
FIXED GEAR FLEET, VESSEL CLASS A69  
SPRING FISHERY OPENING DATE**

**Antigonish, NS – May 12, 2023** – Fisheries and Oceans Canada announces that the Atlantic halibut fishery will open for Gulf Nova Scotia fixed-gear licence holders, using vessel class A69 in the portions of NAFO Division 4T known as 4T1, 4T8, 4T2a, 4T2b, 4T9a and 4T9b.

This fishery will open for 31 hours from 05:00 hrs, May 18, 2023 to 12:00 hrs, May 19, 2023.

Replacement vessels or vessel transfers will only be authorized from another fisher whose homeport is in the Gulf Nova Scotia administrative area.

Should portions or all of 4T1, 4T8, 4T2a, 4T2b, 4T9a or 4T9b close due to the North Atlantic right whales dynamic closure protocol, Atlantic halibut fishing for the vessel class A69 will be permitted but it will be mandatory to closely attend fishing gear as identified in the conditions of licence.

Fishers are reminded that during the period where fishing is authorized, it is the responsibility of the licence holder to take into account the marine safety notices issued, among others, by Environment and Climate Change Canada and Transport Canada, as well as the standards and best practices in marine safety, and to take all measures to ensure a safe fishery.

**New in 2023:**

**Management**

**Hail Out**

Commencing in 2023 fishing season, fish harvesters from both Gulf and Quebec Regions will be required to dial a new telephone number when hailing out. The new telephone number **1-833-699-2013 (toll free) or 1-506-431-3223 (satellite phone only)** will need to be used for new hails, modified hails and cancelled hails. This will direct fish harvesters to a call centre and replace the Vessel Hail Out System (Interactive Voice Recognition System – IVR) until further notice.

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## **2023 Management measures to minimize interactions with North Atlantic right whales**

The Management measures to minimize interactions with North Atlantic Right Whales (NARW) can be found at the following address: <http://dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fisheries-peches/commercial-commercial/atl-arc/narw-bnan/management-gestion-eng.html>.

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

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