

Note : Translation from original letter submitted in French
Cap-aux-Meules, January 12, 2022

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BY EMAIL ONLY

Object: North Atlantic Right Whale Area Closure Protocol

Hello,

As we enter the year 2022, we have been in preparation mode for the upcoming snow crab fishing season for some time now, and one of our concerns is the smooth running of the season for the next snow crab fishing season.

Last year, our fishing area - CFA F - was closed early in the season as part of the North Atlantic right whale (NARW) management measures. While we are sensitive to the protection of this large mammal, and apply the fishing protocols with great respect, we believe that it is possible to adopt practices that allow us to live together in a healthy and prosperous cohabitation.

The Zone F fishermen's group, which represents the 15 traditional licences, 10 of which are in Quebec (Îles-de-la-Madeleine) and 5 in Nova Scotia, wishes to remind you that the area covered by CFA F is very limited and that the number of exploitable grids is very limited. It should be noted that CFA F also has a little more than 22 crabbers from the New Access fleet, which increases the traffic in the area and consequently the number of gears. Considering that the traditional fishing grounds represent barely 40% of the area, and that nearly one third is found in the Laurentian Channel or inside the 20 fathoms, the closure of a single grid can have a significant impact on operations, but also on the species since fishing efforts are concentrated in a small area.

We would like you to consider the critical economic issues of a temporary or seasonal closure without alternative fishing areas. And we ask that the authorization of access to CFA 12 to be included in the CFA 12F management measures and that it be systematically applicable to the temporary or seasonal protocol of area closures for the NARW.

With this in mind, please find attached a proposed protocol specific to CFA F when the management measures for the protection of the North Atlantic right whales are applied.

Thank you for your interest in our request.

Yours sincerely,



Steve Lapierre

President

SL/mo

Attachments:

- Proposal
- Preliminary data on landings in Quebec by the traditionals
- Map of grids in the Snow Crab Fishery Management Area 12F in the Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence in 2019
- Geographical distribution of fishing effort (traps lifted) in management areas 12, 19, 12E and 12F of the Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence snow crab fishery in 2019

PROPOSED PROTOCOL

When the North Atlantic Right Whale (NARW) Fishery Closure Protocol is implemented, fish harvesters in CFA F are authorized to fish temporarily or seasonally in CFA 12 according to the following specific protocol:

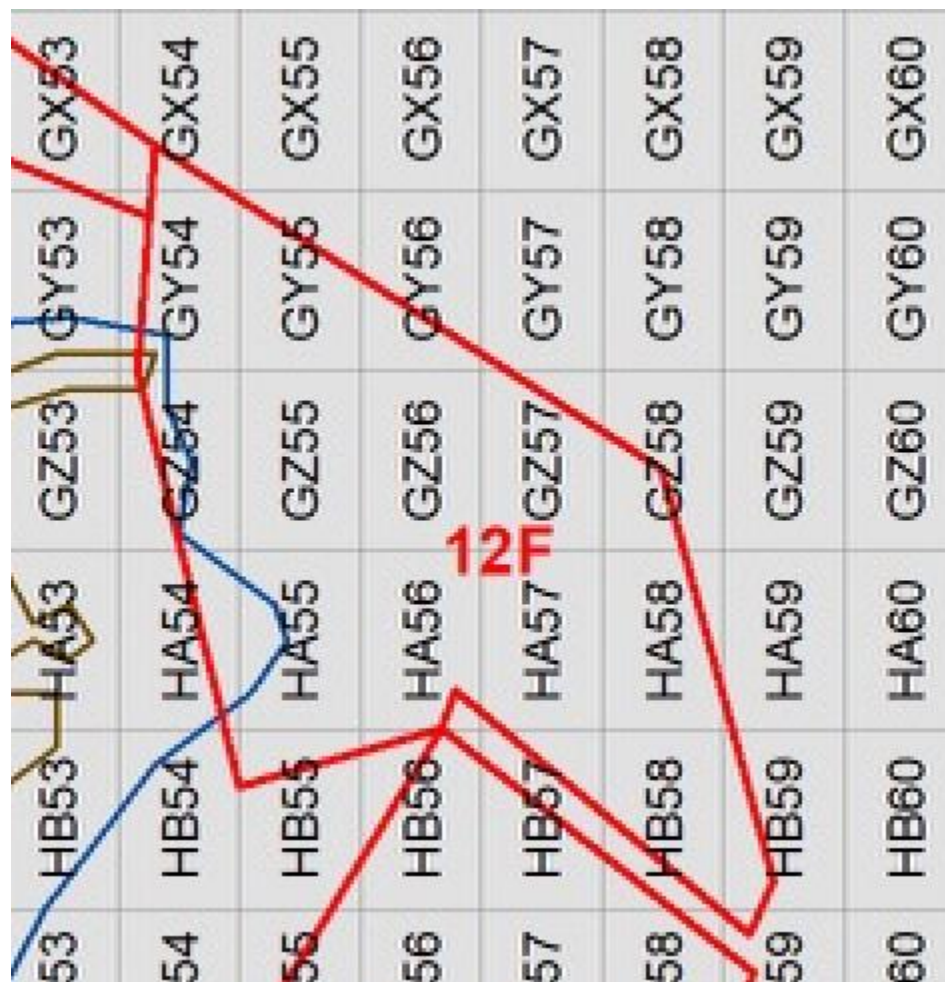
- Only grids GZ56, HA57, GY55 are considered traditional fishing grounds of CFA F.
- If 2 of the 3 grids identified above close due to the application of the fishery closure protocol for the NARW; and
 - The overall threshold of the catch rate for F is less than 90% of the quota in F; OR
 - That the individual crabber's catch rate is less than 80% of its individual quota.

Preliminary data on landings in Quebec by traditional fishers

| Pêcherie | Quota révisé (t) | Captures (t) | Captures dans la 12 (t) | Valeur Captures (M\$) | Quota restant (t) | Pourcentage Atteint |
|---------------------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Traditionnels - Total | 932,668 | 897,111 | N/a | 14,072 | 35,557 | 96% |
| Pêcheurs du QC seulement | 641,123 | 638,340 | 334,465 | 10,013 | 2,783 | 100% |
| Allocations temporaires - Total | 177,276 | 184,519 | N/a | 2,894 | -7,243 | 104% |
| Pêcheurs du QC seulement | 177,312 | 137,302 | 19,350 | 2,154 | 40,010 | 77% |
| Zone 12F - Total | 1 109,944 | 1 081,630 | 353,815 | 16,966 | 28,314 | 97% |

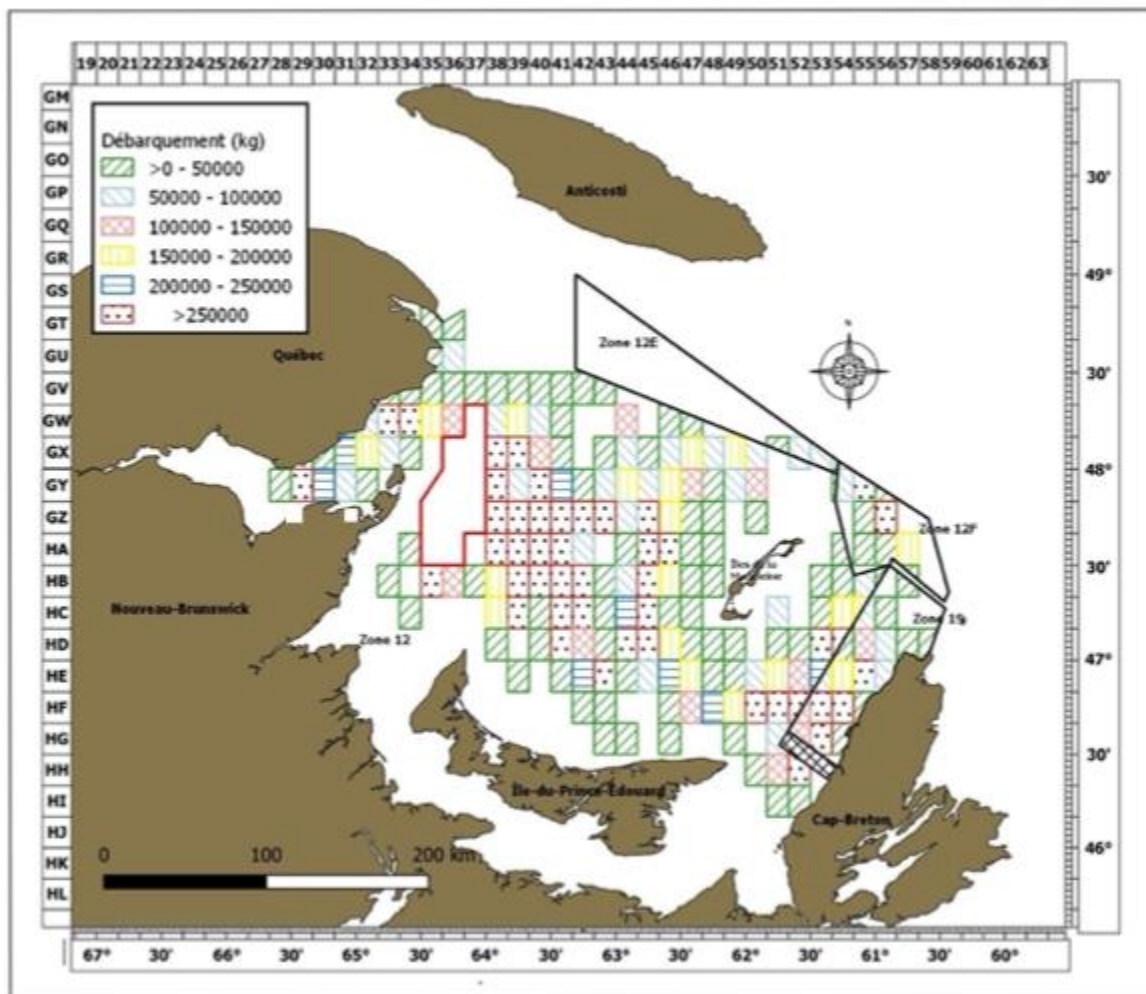
Source: Alexandre T. Watier - M.Eng, Statistical Analyst, DFO

Map of the grids in the Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence snow crab fishery management area 12F Gulf of St. Lawrence in 2019



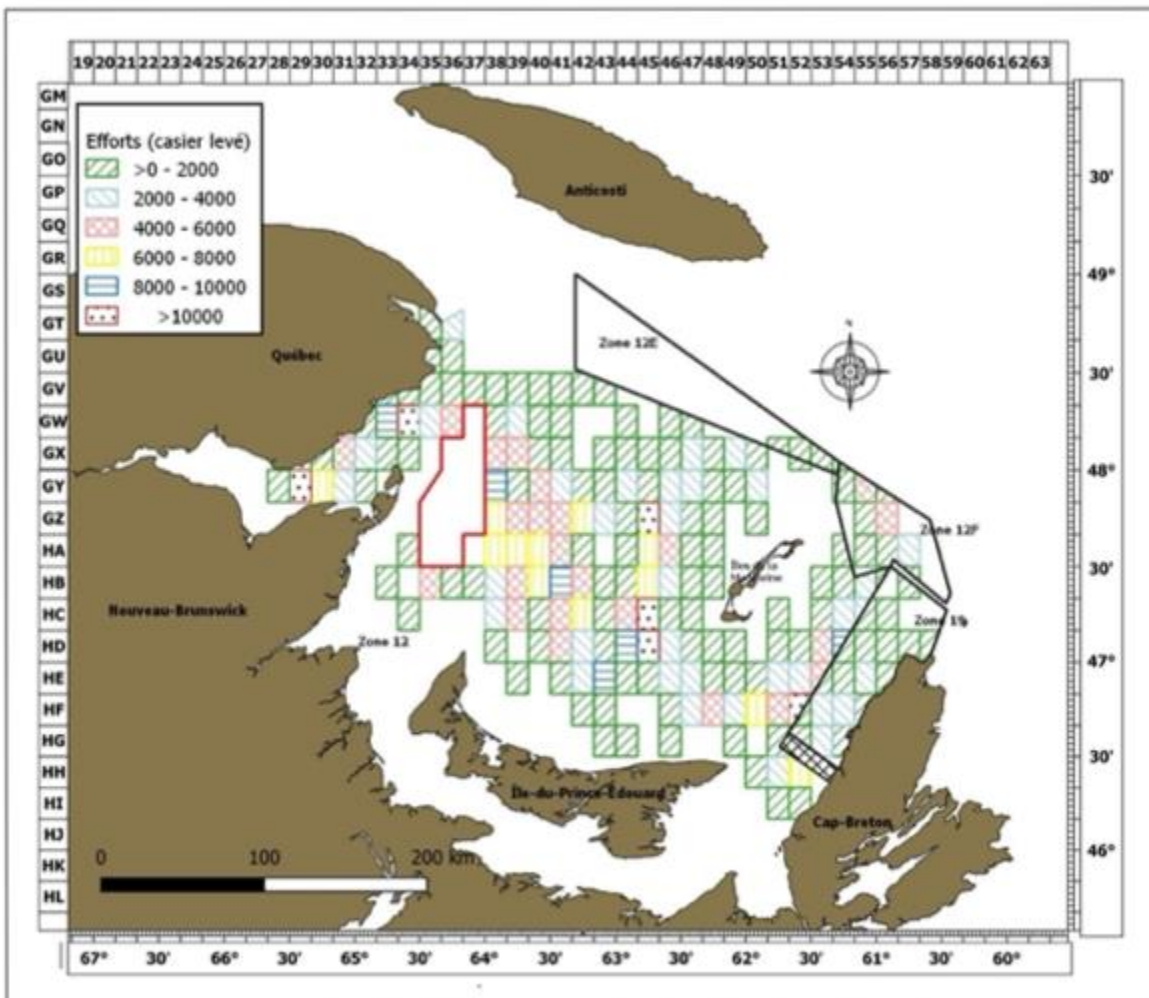
Source: Alexandre T. Watier - M.Eng, Statistical Analyst, DFO

Geographical distribution of landings (kg) in snow crab fishing management areas during the 2019 fishing season in the Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence (Area 12, 19, 12E and 12F)



Source: Review of the 2019 snow crab (*Chionoecetes opilio*) fishery in the southern Gulf of St. Lawrence (Areas 12, 19, 12E and 12F)(dfo-mpo.gc.ca) - p.23

Geographic distribution of fishing effort (traps hauls) by snow crab fishery management area during the 2019 fishing season in the southern Gulf of St. Lawrence (Area 12, 19, 12E and 12F)



Source: Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence Snow Crab (*Chionoecetes opilio*) Fishery Review
(Areas 12, 19, 12E and 12F) in 2019 (dfo-mpo.gc.ca) - p.22