**Herring Management Committee Meeting**

**Holiday Inn Express, Stellarton NS**

**August 25, 2022 10:00am**

Present:

Alan Chandler Province of NS

Craig MacDonald C&P, DFO

Rob Mckay Atlantic Catch Data

Nicolas Roland\* Science, DFO

Rob MacDonald MFU (Local 4)

Greg Egilson President, GNS Herring Federation

Alan Dwyer RM, DFO

Danielle Goff-Beaton RM, DFO

Dewayne Falconer Northumberland fisherman’s coop

Jacob Burbank\* Science DFO

Rachel DeJong\* Aquatic Science, DFO

Kent Clements PEIFA

Colton Cameron Northumberland Fishermen’s Association

Shane LeBlanc MFU (Local 4)

Stirling Heighton NFA

Kevin Thompson MFA

Hugh LaPointe\* Inverness South Fishermen’s Association

Craig Cameron\* Inverness South Fishermen’s Association

**OVERVIEW**

* Quota announced August 19th. The reduction in quota is obviously going to be discussed at the appropriate point in the agenda, called for additions to Agenda.
* Greg Egilson requested to add Temporary Decks discussion to Agenda.

**SAFETY**

* Alan Dwyer noted the most important aspect is to keep everyone safe and go home at the end of the day.
* Alan chandler: outreach programs for fishing safety initiatives were curtailed due to covid. Going forward you will see initiatives around the wharf facilities associated with outreach activities.
* no other safety comments

**REVIEW OF 2021**

**Resource Management**

* Summer fishery July 4 to Aug. 19: no landings.
* Fall Fishery Sept 12 to Oct 8, closed on Sept 23.
* Quota 2734 t; caught 2745 so 11 t over 2734 t Quota.
* Daily closures in place from noon to 6pm, weekend closures
* Trip limit 15000 pounds, 100 boats active.

**C &P**

* Nothing to report from C&P on 2021 season other than some lost gear picked up.

**Industry**

* Kevin: Old ghost gear picked up, none of the gear was new. Recovered 30 nets and 96 traps
* Fall school appeared larger in size than 3-4 years ago to fishers as well, the fish appeared larger as well.
* Colton: Fishers on the east and west are noticing herring activity long after the season ends. He also noted that while fishing other species noticed herring in areas not normally fished.
* Hugh: confirms in Port Hood herring noticed after season closed.
* Colton: Expressed that he is ok with sustainable fishing if the stock is in fact decreasing but expressed an interest to discuss completely at another venue how DFO Science assess GNS stocks.

**Nova Scotia Dept Fisheries and Aquaculture**

* No trouble to sell fish
* Bay of Fundy behaviour is changing. Discussed survey, assess and take (10%) fishing protocol there for herring.

**Dockside Monitoring Program**

* Want to have an upper test limit test of scale at the end of night.
* Working on getting a new weight for each wharf (Greg E. working on this)
* Will not be scanning in logbooks this year. Size is too large to scan so will send a boxed up reports to Moncton in November.

 **2022 Summer Fishery**

* No landings.
* Greg asked for clarification if the 25 t uncaught quota is going to be added to the 1519 t Fall quota. Alan explained the Fall quota includes the Summer allocation and the Fall Quota stays the same if no summer landings. Any summer landing gets subtracted from Fall quota.

**2022 Fishery and Management Measures**

* 1519 t Quota
* Everyone good with 6pm Sunday the 11th? Yes, all in agreement
* **CONSENSUS reached to open 2022 Fall season at 1800 Sept 11 to 1200 on October 7**
* Weekend closure and daily from noon to 6pm
* Daily catch 15000 t
* Mesh size 66.7
* SARA reporting – no data is bad data. Nil reports are important
* Lost and found gear reporting is online this year.
* Conditions valid Sept 11 to Oct 7 and will close early by VO if needed

**New in 2022**

* Mandatory logbook implemented in 2022
	+ Industry noted some providers have said they are on back order
	+ Industry noted that there was no space for the Authorization # to be written in the Comments section.
	+ PEI FA does have copies. (confirmed by end of meeting)
	+ Craig MacDonald suggested Associations make it a priority immediately to ensure they have logbooks for start of fishing.
* Fishing gear reporting system. Log into an account; the link is in the CHP.
* Discarding waste-new on all conditions

**OTHER**

Nicolas:

* Some survey trawls are from old areas for continuity of the science purposes
* St. Georges Bay and Pictou survey from DFO Science show fish are staying later in season in area.
* Also showing fish are moving away from North
* Decrease in stocks is less for the South
* New acoustic survey along NS coast planned for next year possibly
* Logbook this year is improved and new data to be filled out. Ex: if fishers leave an empty net out for 2 days please record that in log book otherwise Hail in/out is used to determined effort.
* Hugh: questioned why acoustic survey could not be done this year. Nicolas responded this is due to equipment cost being significant (40-50K)

Temp Decks:

Discussion re: insurance coverage and TC requirements. Industry expects soft enforcement from TC this year. Craig MacDonald covered what requirement C&P are responsible for enforcing for clarity.

Bait Licence Freeze:

* Newer fishery entrants can’t log on a get a bait licence issued due to freeze. DFO tells Colton that Minister hasn’t made a decision on this yet. Alan to follow up on this and get back to fishers.

Seal Data:

* Industry questioned the effect seals have on stocks. Nicolas explained some of the science work done. The Seal contact is not based in Gulf Region. Mont Joli- Mike Hammel DFO
* Natural Mortality for fall fishery 7-11+ fish
	+ Before 1990’s 15% mortality rate
	+ ~2010 60-65% mortality rate
	+ Currently 45% mortality rate