* + Inverness South Website articles from 2018

**Message from Northumberland Fishermen's Association regarding Boat Harbour Closure:** ​The community of Pictou Landing First Nation has lived with and suffered from the devastation caused by pulp effluent in Boat Harbour for more than 50 years. The Boat Harbour Act - passed in 2015 -  promised to close Boat Harbour on January 31, 2020.

Now, Northern Pulp is asking the government to extend the closure of Boat Harbour, so they have more time to build their new effluent treatment plant that would see 70-90 million litres of pulp effluent discharged into the Northumberland Strait daily.

Pictou Landing First Nation has firmly and repeatedly said no to any extension of the Boat Harbour Act.

You can show your support for closing Boat Harbour on schedule by taking 30 seconds to  [sign a declaration at this link.](https://www.friendsofthenorthumberlandstrait.ca/copy-of-send-a-letter-in-one-minute%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)

For more information on Northern Pulp's proposed pipe into the Northumberland Strait and other ways you can help, please visit [https://www.friendsofthenorthumberlandstrait.ca](https://www.friendsofthenorthumberlandstrait.ca/).

Thank you in advance for your support,

Ronnie Heighton, Allan MacCarthy & Dennis McGee

**2018 Commercial Bluefin Tuna Fishing Gulf Nova Scotia - Season Extension, Competitive:
​**Fisheries and Oceans Canada wishes to advise Gulf Nova Scotia (GNS) tuna licence holders that the fishing season has been extended until 18:00 hours Saturday,  December 22.

The remainder of the 2018 season will be managed as a competitive fishery and additional tags will be available to licence holders from the GNS Area Office in Antigonish. The 2018 fishery will be closed at 18:00 hours on December 22 or when the quota is captured, whichever comes first.

Upon review of the landings, 212 tuna have been landed up to November 25, 2018.  This has resulted in approximately 46 t or 71% of the 2018 GNS Fleet’s quota being captured.

Fish harvesters who wish to continue their fishing activities beyond December 1, 2018 will need to obtain new licence conditions. Amended conditions of licence will be released and available through the National Online Licensing System (NOLS) for GNS licence holders.

Tags will be available for pick up at the Gulf Nova Scotia Area Office in Antigonish on Mondays from 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. and Thursdays from 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Tags will also be available via appointment by calling Licensing at 1-855-634-2355 or by emailing GulfInfoGolfe@dfompo.gc.ca.

**Seafood Exports Lead to Halifax Airport Expansion:** Booming Seafood Exports Leads to $36M Cargo Expansion at Halifax Airport.
Booming Seafood Exports Leads to $36M Cargo Expansion at Halifax AirportCopyright © 2018 CBC/Radio-Canada
By Paul Withers
November 16, 2018
Construction will begin within six months on a new $36-million cargo handling facility to ease the freight bottleneck at the Halifax Stanfield International Airport — another sign of the growing volume and importance of fresh seafood exports from Nova Scotia, especially lobster to China.
The project was announced Thursday in Halifax by federal Transport Minister Marc Garneau.
"Whatever seafoods are sent to places like China and Europe, you have to do it fast and efficiently and I think this air cargo logistics park is exactly what is required," Garneau said.
**The money and the project**
The federal government will spend $18 million through the national trade corridors fund, while the Halifax International Airport Authority will contribute $13 million. The province has pledged $5 million.
The project will include a new cargo building, new taxiways and an expansion of de-icing facilities on 10 hectares of forest land adjacent to the existing Gateway cargo facility.
**Why it's needed**
Lobster exporters have complained for years about the bottleneck of moving product out of Stanfield.
The result of cargo planes tending to arrive at the same time — at night — and not enough storage space. Airport CEO Joyce Carter said the expansion will address the problem.
"The additional facilities will allow us to receive more product in advance of the flights coming in, to be able to store the product on site until they arrive, and the infrastructure to get them loaded and back into the air as quickly as possible," Carter told CBC News.
"This is a huge announcement."
**Halifax Airport gets a second chance**
The airport expansion project was initially rejected for funding under the national trade corridors fund in April.
Carter said the airport was later debriefed by Transport Canada and made an unsolicited second bid, which was accepted.
"We learned from that debrief things we could have done differently," she said, adding the changes in the second bid were relatively small.
**Still to be decided**
Carter said the size of expanded refrigeration capacity has not been determined. The airport currently has 7,000 square feet of refrigeration.
The new cargo building will be larger and tenants will compete for longer term leases.
In 2017, 10,000 tonnes of seafood worth $220 million was flown out of the airport, accounting for half the value of all export flights.
**Halifax Port shut out**
While Thursday's announcement was a happy ending for the airport, the Port of Halifax remains shut out of funding from the 11-year, $2-billion program, which has so far doled out $800 million.
The port's application for federal funding toward a $400-million expansion was rejected while more than $300 million has gone to rival ports like Montreal and Vancouver.
Garneau said projects were approved based on merit and the Port of Halifax is free to apply for funding under the second round.
He declined to say why Halifax was rejected.
Garneau did say the 350 applications received in the first round were assessed based on how a project would address bottlenecks, how it would make trade corridors more fluid and whether co-funding was lined up.
"Those are the factors we look at," he said.
 Photo Credit: Marchcattle / iStock / Getty Images Plus



**Commercial Bluefin Tuna Notice:** Nov. 2, 2018 - Fisheries and Oceans Canada wishes to advise Gulf Nova Scotia (GNS) tuna licence holders that the number of tuna that can be caught and retained in a calendar day has been increased from one (1) to two (2).

The amended Conditions of Licence are now available through the National Online Licensing System (NOLS).

Tags are available for pick up at the Gulf Nova Scotia Area Office in Antigonish on Monday or Thursday afternoons from 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm.

If licence holders are unavailable to pick up tags during these periods, they may contact Licensing by calling 1-855-634-2355 or by emailing GulfInfoGolfe@dfo-mpo.gc.ca.

**Online Mackerel Survey:** If anyone is interested, we received the following email from a post-doctoral researcher from Belgium who's looking for information to help better estimate the size of the Canadian mackerel stock:
Hello,
I am a post-doctoral researcher from Belgium working in Canada on northwest Atlantic mackerel, together with scientists at the Maurice-Lamontagne Institute (DFO). In order to better estimate the size of the Canadian mackerel stock, I would like to have first-hand experiences of commercial, recreational and bait mackerel fishers on their activities. With better estimates of the mackerel stock size and its productivity I hope to be able to provide better management advice and stock predictions.
The survey consists of 6 small parts and for most of the questions (about 12) there is space to write an explanation if you wish (and appreciated!). Unless specified otherwise, all questions concern the 2016 fishing season.
Please share this survey with members of your organization or community that have an interest in the mackerel fishery.
This survey is completely anonymous and personal identifying information is not even collected by me.
I would like to thank you in advance for filling in this survey (<https://goo.gl/forms/HVQwcojkIrrI3HhU2>). Please feel free to contact me by email or phone in addition to the survey.
Elisabeth Van Beveren
elisabeth.vanbeveren@dfo-mpo.gc.ca
418 509-3480

**Correction to the GNS Summer Halibut Fishery Update for October 25:** The **preliminary** landings  from the last opening (October 21 to October 23, 2018)  are 0.479 t.  There is **approximately**2.9 t remaining of the GNS Summer Halibut fishery quota.  There will be no additional openings in 2018 and the remaining quota will be carried forward to the 2019 season

**GNS Summer Halibut Fishery for October 25th:** During the conference call regarding the GNS Summer Halibut Fishery held October 24th, it was decided to carry over the remaining quota to next year.

**Scallop Fishery Area 24:** Please find below the Scallop Fishing Area 24 Notice to Fish Harvester (Harvesting Plan).  The fishery will be open on November 1st at 6:00 a.m. until December 15, 2018, and will be closed on Sundays.

**GNS Summer Halibut Fishery Update for October 18, 2018:** Based on preliminary landings, there are approximately 3.423 t remaining of the GNS Summer Halibut fishery quota. The next Sunday to Tuesday opening (October 21 to October 23) will be proceeding as usual. DFO will continue to monitor landings and provide us with an update.

**Atlantic Mackerel Update for October 10, 2018:** The Commercial fishery closed as of 12:00 noon on Wednesday, October 10, 2018. Commercial landings have reached the TAC of 10,000 tonnes. Given this closure, personal use bait licenses will be valid through to Nov.30, 2018. The licenses will allow harvesters to land up to 1,000 pounds/day using hook and line (hand lines). The gear would be limited to 3 rods/line **With No Limit On The Number Of Hooks Per Line.** Revised mackerel bait license conditions can be obtained through NOLS.

**Atlantic Mackerel Fisheries Closure:** Please be advised that Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) has issued a Variation Order to close the commercial mackerel fishery in all mackerel fishing areas as of 12:00 noon Atlantic Time on Tuesday, October 9, 2018 for conservation purposes as commercial landings are near or have reached the Total Allowable Catch of 10,000 tonnes.

The Department will review all landings data early next week and if sufficient quota remains, the fishery may be re-opened.

Given this commercial closure for 2018, DFO will allow harvesters that do not have access to handline for bait to ask for a new license condition to allow the use of hand line (instead of gillnets) for this year only.

The amended personal use bait licenses will be valid through to November 30, 2018. The licenses will allow harvesters to land up to 1,000 pounds per day using hook and line (hand lines). The gear would be limited 3 rods/lines with the maximum of six hooks per line. Regular bait catch reporting through logbooks will apply. Harvesters wishing to make this change can obtain revised mackerel bait license conditions through the National Online Licensing System (NOLS) by early next week.

**Atlantic Mackerel Update for October 4th, 2018:** Based on preliminary data, commercial landings for Atlantic Mackerel are currently 8,608 tonnes. The Department will continue to closely monitor Atlantic mackerel harvests and announce a closure of the commercial fishery when landings approach the 10,000 tonne commercial total allowable catch.

**GNS Summer Halibut Fishery Update for October 4th, 2018:** The preliminary landings from the last opening (September 30 to October 2) are 1.151 t.  There is approximately 5.344 t remaining of the GNS Summer Halibut fishery quota. The next Sunday to Tuesday opening (October 7 to October 9) will be proceeding as usual. DFO will continue to monitor landings and provide us with an update.

**Commercial Atlantic Mackerel landings for October 3rd, 2018:** Based on preliminary data, commercial landings for Atlantic Mackerel are currently 8,005 tonnes. The Department will continue to closely monitor Atlantic mackerel harvests and announce a closure of the commercial fishery when landings approach the 10,000 tonne commercial total allowable catch.

**Commercial Landings for Atlantic Mackerel for October 1st, 2018:** based on preliminary data, commercial landings for Atlantic Mackerel are 7265 tonnes.

**GNS Summer Halibut Fishery Update for September 26, 2018:** The preliminary landings from the last opening (September 23 to September 25) are 1.481 t.  There is approximately 6.495 t remaining of the GNS Summer Halibut fishery quota. The next Sunday to Tuesday opening (September 30 to October 2) will be proceeding as usual. DFO will continue to monitor landings and provide us with an update.

**Commercial Landings for Atlantic Mackerel for September 26, 2018:** based on preliminary data, commercial landings for Atlantic Mackerel are 5908 tonnes.

**Commercial Landings for Atlantic Mackerel:** DFO would like to inform everyone that based on preliminary data, commercial landings for Atlantic Mackerel are 5735 tonnes. As we have now surpassed 50% of this 10,000 tonne TAC, we will receive regular updates of commercial landing twice a week or more as needed.

**Gulf NS Summer Halibut Fishery Update for September 20th:** The preliminary landings from the last opening (September 16 to September 18) are 0.881 t.  There is approximately 7.976 t remaining of the GNS Summer Halibut fishery quota. The next Sunday to Tuesday opening (September 23 to September 25) will be proceeding as usual. DFO will continue to monitor landings and provide us with an update.

**Gulf NS Summer Halibut Fishery Update for September 20th:** The preliminary landings from the last opening (September 16 to September 18) are 0.881 t.  There is approximately 7.976 t remaining of the GNS Summer Halibut fishery quota. The next Sunday to Tuesday opening (September 23 to September 25) will be proceeding as usual. DFO will continue to monitor landings and provide us with an update.

**GNS Summer Halibut Fishery Update for September 13th:** The preliminary landings from the last opening (September 9 to September 11) are 2.246 t.  There is approximately 9.368 t remaining of the GNS Summer Halibut fishery quota.  The next Sunday to Tuesday opening (September 16 to September 18) will be proceeding as usual. DFO will continue to monitor landings and provide us with an update.

**GNS 2018 Summer Halibut Fishery Update:** The preliminary landings from the last opening (September 2 to September 4) are 2.466 t.  There is approximately 11.614 t remaining of the GNS Summer Halibut fishery quota.

**2018 Halibut Longline Survey:** The Gulf Nova Scotia Fleet Planning Board is gearing up for the 2018 DFO Halibut Longline Science Survey. **We are seeking names and contact info of interested harvesters by Friday August 7th at 3pm (This has been extended, please reply ASAP if interested).** Some of the details of the survey include:

* The harvester must make themselves available, prepared to go to the scientific site on the date provided. The sampling MUST take place in September 2018.
* 500 hooks are to be set at the designated location, with a soak time of 4-6 hours. 100% of halibut at the scientific site will be tagged and released.
* Harvesters are responsible to pay for DMP and observer coverage with the approved company of the GNSFPB.
* The harvester will be permitted to catch an allocation of approximately 700lbs of halibut after the test site is completed. This can be caught at any location of their choosing. 1, 500 hundred hooks will be permitted.
* The GNSFPB will pay $2,000.0 to any harvester who finishes their appointed test site and does not want to receive any halibut allocation.

All associations must send this information to their members. Associations must submit names and contact information by **Friday August 7th at 3pm.** Submit to:

* Leonard LeBlanc: leonard.leblanc2@ns.sympatico.ca or
* Victoria Cullen: scc.gnsfpb@gmail.com

**16F Fall Herring Fishery Opening:** Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) wishes to advise 16 F herring
licence holders that the 16 F fall quota is 3,100 t.
The fall fishery will open at 18:00 hours on Sunday, September 9 until 12:00 hours on October 5,
2018 or until the quota is harvested, whichever comes first. In 2018, daily closures will again be
implemented for the fall fishery each day the fishery is open from 12:00 hours to 18:00 hours in
addition to weekend closures for all weekends while the fishery is open.
Fall weekend closures:
1. 12:00 hours Friday, September 14 to 18:00 hours Sunday, September 16
2. 12:00 hours Friday, September 21 to 18:00 hours Sunday, September 23
3. 12:00 hours Friday, September 28 to 18:00 hours Sunday, September 30
The fishing depth restriction of 50 feet in a portion of 16F will again be implemented by
condition of licence in 2018.
Click below to read the entire Notice to Fishers and the Conservation

**Halibut Fishery Landings for August 30th:** The preliminary landings  from the first opening (August 26 to August 28)  are 7.81 t.  There is approximately  14.08 t remaining of the GNS Summer Halibut fishery quota.  ​

**GNS Summer Halibut Fishery Opening:** The Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) announces that fishing will be authorized for Gulf Nova Scotia (GNS) fixed-gear licence holders fishing Atlantic halibut in Groundfish Fishing Areas 4T1, 4T8, and 4T2b with vessels less than 19.812 metres (65 feet) in overall length (vessel class A146).

The 2018-2019 GNS Atlantic halibut remaining available quota is 21.893 t.

Only those harvesters who did not participate in the GNS spring halibut fishery are eligible to participate in the summer halibut fishery.

This fishery will take place from **6:00 hrs Sunday to 20:00 hrs Tuesday beginning August 26, 2018 until further advised**.  There will be no consideration of delaying the fishery due to inclement weather or other uncontrollable circumstances.

The maximum number of hooks permitted to be fished or on board a vessel at any time will be 1500 per licence holder.

**Fall 2018 16F Herring Notice:** The Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) announces the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) of 25,000 tons for the commercial fall herring fishery in the Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence for Herring Fishing Areas (HFA) 16A to 16G and 17.

The management measures will remain relatively the same as during the 2017 fishing season with the exception of new license conditions related to the protection of Marine Mammals.  Below, you will find the Notice to Fishers with the table with the management measures for various HFAs.

**Halibut Fishery:** As per conference call on August 1st, Quota for the halibut fishery is 21.8 ton. Starting August 26th, every sunday from 6am to Tuesday at 8pm, 1500 hooks, no night closures.

**Redfish Fishery:** CLOSING REDFISH FISHERY TO THE LESS THAN 19.81 METRES FLEET  IN UNIT 1
Moncton, NB - Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) advises that a portion of the Unit 1 redfish fishery is closing to the less than 19.81 metres (65 feet) inshore using mobile gear for vessel classes C1 to C3460.
All of North Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) divisions 4R and 4T are closed while a portion of division 4S is closed.  The portion of division 4S, that is closing at 12:00 (noon) EDT on July 27, is defined as the waters enclosed by rhumb lines (similar to a straight line plotted on a nautical chart) joining the following points, in the order in which they are listed:
Points Latitude – North Longitude - West
1                             50°10’24”N      61°11’06”W
2                             49°25’00”N      60°00’00”W
3                             47°50’00”N      60°00’00”W
4                             47°56’00”N      60°17’00”W
5                             50°10’24”N      61°11’06”W
This closure is a result of a number of small fish exceeding the small fish protocol limit.  According to the small fish protocol, the fishery will be closed for a minimum duration of 10 days and may reopen following a successful, industry funded, test fishery.  If any particular fishery is closed twice during the year because of small fish, the fishery may remain closed for the remainder of the year.

**Rock Crab Fishery in LFA 26A:** The opening date will be 6:00 a.m., Monday August 6, 2018. The last day of fishing will be Saturday, November 24, 2018 (inclusively). Read the Notice to Fishers with the Conservation Harvesting Plan affecting the 2018 season below:

**Redfish:** On June 29, 2018, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) announced a two year management plan (2018-19) for Redfish Unit 1 and Unit 2.
For Unit 1, the index fishery program will be maintained with a 2,000t quota.
 An additional 2,500t experimental quota will be made available under an Experimental Redfish Fishing Plan notably for the purpose of testing gear to minimize capture of undersized redfish (<22 cm) and bycatch, and to collect data on redfish species identification and reproduction. Details on the Experimental Redfish Fishing Plan for Unit 1 and application form can be found on the following link <http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/peches-fisheries/comm/atl-arc/management-plan-gestion/redfish-sebaste-eng.html>.  Proposals for the 2018/19 season must be submitted to DFO.Redfishexperimental-sebasteexperimental.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca  by **August 6, 2018**.
If you have any questions, please contact
Carole LeBlanc
Regional Manager, Fisheries and Aquaculture Management
Gestionnaire régionale, Gestion des pêches et aquaculture
343 Université Ave. Moncton, NB E1C 9B6
Telephone | Téléphone: 506-851-2147
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Internet: Carole.LeBlanc@dfo-m
 or Sandra Courchesne (Sandra.courchesne@dfo-mpo.gc.ca)

**Pipeline Rally Note of Thanks:** From Linda Townsend - Just wanted to take a moment to  thank those of you who made it from PEI and NB to join us at the #NOPIPE Land & Sea Rally on Friday and give a quick snap shot for those of you who couldn’t attend.

Our rally committee clearly achieved what we had set out to do with well over 3500 supporters for no pipe in the Northumberland Strait.   Marchers numbered just short of 1000, with a conservative estimate of another 1000 cheering boats on from Pictou Waterfront and all along the harbour’s shoreline.  With over 200 boats, who were carrying as many as 15 passengers, we estimated another 1500 rallied by sea.  A grand total of 3500+.

My mother in-law watched from her cottage at the mouth of the harbour and said it was the most amazing site she has seen in her 79 years.   As the fishing boats arrived, all of the captains announced on VHF where they were from and all shared the same message, “NO PIPE”.   The boats filed into the harbour and circled in front of Northern Pulp with the 2000+ land ralliers cheering them on.

I was stationed at the stage and I can tell you it was an overwhelmed site to see the line of marchers come down the hill and onto the pier.  It was like watching a train and wondering when it was ever going to end.  Equally as moving was watching the First Nations Chiefs and Council walk up the pier from their boats and onto the stage with the crowd cheering them on.

The speeches were powerful and represented key sectors who have a stake in Northern Pulp’s proposal.  Everyone kept their messages short and we were able to wrap up just before Mother Nature had the last word sending us a massive squall.  With the wind at their backs, the fishing boats exited the harbour quickly and the crowds made a beeline for cover.

For those of you on Facebook, you would have seen the event well documented with hundreds of photos and videos.  For those of you who are not, I will have the rally website populated with event images, video, and media coverage by the end of the week.  If you have any photos or video to share, please send them my way.

The media coverage started four days prior and is still continuing with editorials in our provincial paper.  Below are some links to a sampling of the coverage.  We are still collecting.

Duane, sorry to hear about your parking ticket.  According to locals, you received the first parking ticket in Pictou history.  Send me the ticket number and I’ll see if it can do anything to get it voided.
**Canada Press/Global News:**
Maritime fishing boats gathering in Pictou to protest pulp mill effluent
<https://globalnews.ca/news/4316364/northern-pulp-mill-protest/?utm_medium=Facebook&utm_source=GlobalHalifax>

**Chronicle Herald:**
Protesters rally against Northern Pulp effluent pipe (includes links to series of stories)
<http://thechronicleherald.ca/novascotia/1582459-protesters-rally-against-northern-pulp-effluent-pipe>

**Globe & Mail**
Thousands of Atlantic Canada residents from three provinces protest N.S. pulp mill’s effluent plan
<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/article-thousands-of-atlantic-canada-residents-from-three-provinces-protest-n/>

**CTV News Atlantic**
Fishing boats converge on N.S. harbour as part of effluent pipe protest
<https://atlantic.ctvnews.ca/fishing-boats-converge-on-n-s-harbour-as-part-of-effluent-pipe-protest-1.4002332>

**CTV NEW National**
Floating pulp mill pipeline protest underway in N.S.
<https://www.ctvnews.ca/video?playlistId=1.4002707>

**CBC News**
Northern Pulp effluent pipe protest draws huge crowds on land and sea in Pictou
<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/northern-pulp-effluent-pipe-protest-1.4736367>

**​New Glasgow News (carried in other weeklies as well/good pics of boats)**
Protesters gather for the #NoPipe rally in Pictou
<http://www.ngnews.ca/news/local/protesters-gather-for-the-nopipe-rally-in-pictou-224249/>

Linda Townsend
902-790-1490
linda@shiftcreativemarketing.com
[shiftcreativemarketing.com](http://shiftcreativemarketing.com/)

**Spring Halibut Fishery Landings:** The preliminary landings from the Gulf Nova Scotia  Spring Halibut fishery are as follows:
**Date  of Spring Halibut Fishery         Quota Landed**
June 21 to June 22, 2018:                       32.212 t
​June 30, 2018:                                         13.757 t
Total:                                                        45.969 t

The Spring Halibut Fishery Quota of 44.703 t was exceeded by 1.266 t.
A call will be scheduled to discuss the 2018 summer halibut fishery.

**Summer Herring Fishery Opening: ​**Notice to Fish Harvesters

16 F Herring 2018 Summer Fishery

Antigonish – July 6, 2018:  Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) wishes to advise 16 F herring licence holders that 50 t of the 2018 16 F Fall herring quota is available for the Summer fishery.  The Summer fishery will open from 18:00 hours July 9 until 18:00 hours August 24. There will be weekend closures from 18:00 hours Friday to 18:00 hours the following Sunday for all weekends while the Summer fishery is open. All fish harvesters must hail out to a Dockside Monitoring Company prior to 19:00 each evening before fishing.

**DFO recovery documents for Blue Whale and Wolffish to be posted on the Species at Risk Public Registry:** FOR YOUR INFORMATION
Fisheries and Oceans Canada will post the proposed versions of the following documents on the Species at Risk (SAR) Public Registry in the coming week:
 ·       Recovery Strategy for Northern Wolffish (Anarhichas denticulatus) and Spotted Wolffish (Anarhichas minor), and Management Plan for Atlantic Wolffish (Anarhichas lupus) in Canada
·       Action Plan for the Northern Wolffish (Anarhichas denticulatus) and Spotted Wolffish (Anarhichas minor) in Canada
 ·       Action Plan for the Blue Whale (Balaenoptera musculus), Northwest Atlantic population, in Canada
These documents will be open for public consultation on the SAR Public Registry for a 60-day comment period. Fisheries and Oceans Canada will review comments and integrate them as appropriate, after which the final versions will be posted on the Public Registry.

The documents can be found on the [SAR Public Registry:](http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca/involved/consultation/default_e.cfm)

**Halibut Opening: ​**2018-2019 GULF NOVA SCOTIA – ATLANTIC HALIBUT (4T) FIXED GEAR FLEET, VESSEL CLASS A69 SPRING FISHERY OPENING DATE

Antigonish – June 27, 2018: Fisheries and Oceans Canada announces the opening of the Atlantic halibut fishery for the Gulf Nova Scotia fixed-gear licence holders, using vessel class A69, in the portions North Atlantic Fisheries Organization Division 4T known as 4T9a and 4T9b. The fishery will be opened from 5:00 am until 3:00 pm Saturday, June 30, 2018.  If conditions do not allow for an opening, industry will be consulted before a new date is announced.  The remaining quota for the 2018 spring fishery is 12.49 t.

**Halibut Season Opening**: Spring season opening Thursday, June 21st, 2018 from 5am to Friday, June 23rd, 2018 at 2pm.
​Important Reminder: Check conditions for new information regarding whales.

**Looking for interest in upcoming MED Course​:** The Gulf Nova Scotia Fleet Planning Board is in the process of securing a MED course in Cheticamp (or Belle Cote) during the week of October 22nd, 2018.

They need people to commit to the course, so you will have to pay in advance. If you take the course, you will be refunded. If you do not take the course, you will not be refunded. The one day course is $350 and the four day course is $625 dollars.

THE GULF NOVA SCOTIA FLEET PLANNING BOARD WILL BE PAYING FOR THE COURSE FOR THE HARVESTERS AND ONE HELPER EVERY 5 YEARS.
They need a minimum of 10 people and they need to know if you would like the one day course or the 4 day course.
The one day SDV-BS (Small Domestic Vessel- Basic Safety) is good for fishing up to 25 NM from land and replaces the MED A3.
The four day DVS (Domestic Vessel Safety) replaces the old MED A1 and A2. It allows them to go over the 25 NM and is good for fishing or working on a tour boat with passengers.
PLEASE LET ME KNOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

**Season Opening For The Mackerel Fishery in the Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence:** Moncton, NB – May 31, 2018 –The Department of Fisheries and Oceans announced today the mackerel fishery in fishing area 16 will open on June 1st  2018 at 0:01 a.m. as specified under the Atlantic Fisheries Regulation, 1985.

In addition to the new management measures implemented last year to improve monitoring and reporting of catches in the mackerel fishery, fish harvesters will be required to comply with new management measures for marine mammals. Eligible harvesters wishing to participate in this fishery are now able to obtain their mackerel licence through the National Online Licensing System (NOLS).  The Department wants to remind fishers that they are required to have entered into an agreement with a dockside monitoring company designated by Fisheries and Oceans Canada prior to the start of their mackerel fishing season.

Discussions on the development of a rebuilding plan for mackerel will continue over the next year in collaboration with various stakeholders to identify options to improve the state of the stock which is currently in the critical zone of the precautionary approach framework.

The Total Allowable Catch for Eastern Canada has been established at 10,000 tons for 2018.

There are NEW management measures to be implemented for the 2018 fishing season. Read the Notice To Fishers below:

**2018 Halibut Fishery:​** Further to the Halibut conference call held May 11th, 2018, here is a brief summary of the 2017 GNS Halibut Fishery:
**Spring Fishery**

* Quota: 47.076 t;
* Fishing area restricted to 4T9a and 4T9b for the Spring Fishery, unlimited hooks.
* **There were two Scheduled openings –**
	+ May 24th, 05:00 to May 25, 12:00, (30 fishers)
	+ June 13, 05:00 to June 13, 15:00. (22 fishers)
* **Quota Caught: 44.424 t**

·         **Spring fishery quota remaining = 2.652 t**
 **Summer Fishery**
         Quota: 22.185 t;
·         Fishing area restricted to 4T1, 4T8, 4T2b.
·         Maximum number of hooks permitted to be fished or on board a vessel at any time was 1000 per licence holder. ; September 19, 2017 – hook amount increased to 1500.
·         Daily Closures 18:00 hrs to 06:00 hrs.

​         **Scheduled Openings**
o   06:00 hrs August 15 to 18:00 hrs August 17, 2017. (14 fishers)
o   06:00 hrs August 21 to 18:00 hrs August 23, 2017. (8 fishers)
o   06:00 hrs August 28 to 18:00 hrs August 30, 2017. (10 fishers)
o   06:00 hrs  September 13 to 18:00 hrs September 16, 2017 (7 fishers)
o   06:00 hrs  September 19 to 18:00 hrs September 23, 2017. ( 8 fishers)
o   06 :00 hrs September 27 to 18 :00 hrs October 7,2017 ( 4 fishers)
o   06:00 hrs October 13 to 18:00 hrs October 28, 2017. (8 fishers)
·         **Quota Caught: 19.921 t;**
·         **Summer Fishery Quota Remaining  = 2.264 t**

**Atlantic Mackerel Management Plan 2018:​** The Minister has set the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for the Atlantic Mackerel fishery for 2018.
​The 2018 TAC for the commercial catch is set at 10,000 tonnes under a one-year management plan.
​Click the link below to read the entire Management plan:

**2018 Crab Quota: ​**The 2018 crab quota was awarded to 2 boats. Eugene Beaton and John L. MacKinnon will be fishing the quota for $0.84/pound.

**Groundfish Conference Call:​** A few notes from the Groundfish conference call held on Friday, April 6th. John L. MacKinnon took the call for Inverness South:
​
Ground Fish conference call held on Friday April 6 2018
The call started off with a short conversation on the science survey that was started last summer. Over the survey last summer there were fewer fish tagged they hoped. This was blamed on the number of hocks that fish were tagged from on the survey. It was felt that the number of hocks where fish would be tagged from should be changed to allow for more fish to be tagged.

Halibut
There were 2 recommendation made by industry for the 2018 TAC. Some groups were looking for a 25% increase of the quota for the upcoming season. Where others felt that the quota should remain the same as precautionary approach and await more information from science

Greenland halibut
It was reported that the landing have been lower than normal. And it was recommended a decrease in the TAC. Industry recommended a 25% decreas

**Lobster Study Volunteer Needed:** We are looking for a volunteer from Port Hood to take part in the lobster study that involves setting 3 extra closed traps and recording the catch from the 3 closed traps and 3 regular traps everyday. If anyone is interested in taking part, please contact us asap.

**UPDATE:​** ​The Crab Tender Meeting will be held at the MABOU FIRE HALL.
**2018 Crab Tender:** Our 2018 Crab Tender Meeting will be held Tuesday, April 17th, at 7pm, Location TBA.
​Our allocation for this year is 43.445t (95,779.8299lbs). Note: this allocation will be divided over 3 boats (14.482t = 31,926.61lbs per boat). Please have your tender forms ready and bring them to the meeting, or mail them early enough to have them received before the meeting. All tenders will be opened at the meeting as in previous years.

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**DFO C&P Meetings with Fishers:​** The annual meetings with DFO are coming up:
**INVERNESS
WHEN?**
April 17th 2018 (Tuesday Afternoon)
1:00pm – 3:00pm

 **WHERE?**
Inverness Fire Hall
Inverness N.S.

**WHO?**
Cheticamp DFO C&P (Fishery Officers) will be holding a general meeting with fish harvesters and crew members who fish out of Inverness Harbour.

 **WHAT?**
- Review of license conditions and regulations related to the lobster, crab, bait fisheries and more.
 - Information regarding regulatory and new conservation measures
 - Questions and Answers

**PORT HOOD
WHEN?**
April 16th 2018 (Monday Afternoon)
1 PM

**WHERE?**
Port Hood Fire Hall
Port Hood, N.S.

 **WHO?**
Cheticamp DFO C&P staff will be holding a general meeting with fish harvesters and crew members who fish out of Baxter’s Cove, Maryville Wharf, Lil Judique, Murphy’s Pond and Mabou/Coal Mines.

 **WHAT?**
- Review of license conditions and regulations related to the lobster, crab, bait fisheries and more.

- Information regarding regulatory and new conservation measures

- Questions and Answers

**Town Hall Meeting:​** The Fisheries Safety Association of NS will be holding a FREE Town Hall meeting with a representative from Transport Canada. Everyone is welcome to attend and crew are also welcome!

**Safety Logbook Orientation:** The Fisheries Safety Association offers one-on-one logbook orientation for Captains and their crew. If their is enough interest, they will be conducting orientation sessions in our area on Friday, April 13th. We need numbers by Wednesday, April 11th.

* **$50 per captain (cost recovery on their end) they accept cash or cheque and they can issue receipts if needed.**
* Captains to bring: Their logbook, a pen and themselves. If the captains do not already have their logbook they will have extra on hand.
* They have been conducting the orientations in groups. 3-4 Captains (+ crews, if desired).

If you wish to sign up, please let me know asap. Click the link below to view the sign up sheet which shows the times available. I will record filled slots as they are taken.

**Bluefin Tuna MSE meeting March 27th:** Dennis Cameron attended; some notes from this meeting:
This is very important to be involved with and to watch for all tuna “and non tuna fishers”… a MSE system could be coming in all fisherys as a management system !! This stuff is really hard to completely understand but it’s a new system for ICCAT to figure out TAC for bluefin tuna … it’s already , I believe , in place for redfish,albacore, and Greenland halibut …  coming in swordfish and many other species!
The meeting with stakeholders was to narrow down the objectives in this document ; DFO is going to meet to finalize a position for Canada in Portugal at the science meeting where all ICCAT members will do the same . Out of that they will be working toward a final MSE system to use in deciding a TAC and stock goals for the “long term” in the fishery.

**Green Crab Management in the Gulf Region: ​**Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) is announcing the way forward for the management of the green crab in the Gulf Region. With the completion of the pilot project and the limited participation, the pilot commercial green crab fishery will no longer continue. In the Gulf Region, the Department will manage green crab by aquatic invasive species licences, under Section 52 of the Fishery (General) Regulations on an ongoing basis. To read the entire Notice to Fishers, click the link below

**Crab Tender Bid Notice:**
All fishers who are considering entering a bid to fish the 2018 Snow Crab Quota for Inverness South are asked to begin preparing their bids as the process will be done quickly once we are given our quota from DFO.
The process will be the same as previous years; a meeting will be held at the Mabou Parish Hall where all bids will be opened and made public. Lowest bid will be awarded the quota for this year. The number of fishers who will be awarded quota will depend on the size of the quota.
Please keep in mind that anyone who enters a bid this year will be expected to set their traps as soon as the license and conditions allow. This years’ season is expected to open in April. Due to the issues with the North Atlantic Right Whales, it will not be possible to wait until after lobster is over to fish our quota. Only those fishers who can set their crab traps immediately are asked to submit bids.
As well, DFO has implemented new regulations with regards to rope and markings that will have to be followed. The full notice from DFO is available to be read below.
The quota amount, and meeting time and location, will be posted as soon as possible.
If anyone has any questions, please contact us.

**Important Update:** ​ We received word from Leroy MacEachern today, February 21st, 2018 that our proposal to DFO was APPROVED. An official announcement will be made soon. Based on this, carapace size increase in 26B South will be as follows:
​For the 2018 season: 81.7mm
For the 2019 season: 82.5mm

Recreational Fisheries (Salmon and Striped Bass) Advisory Meeting: This meeting was held February 1st, 2018 in Margaree Forks. Jordan attended for Inverness South. Members from the science branch of DFO in Moncton were present as well. A few notes from the meeting:
- The indications of the salmon population are a downward trend on the Margaree river.
​- The striped bass population is growing fast and are expanding their range. They are also being found in Newfoundland and Labrador. DFO is trying to start a commercial fishing effort with native groups in N.B. This fishery would be on the Miramichi river.
​- The group in Margaree is suggesting an increase in the daily bag limit for Striped bass.

Snow Crab Industry Recommendations on NARW Mitigation Measures**:** During the Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence Snow Crab Working Group meeting that occurred on November 15th in Moncton, New Brunswick, industry representatives were given until November 30th to submit their recommendations to DFO on possible mitigation measures that could be implemented in the snow crab fishery.

Please click below to read a summary of the various recommendations submitted to DFO by industry representatives.
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**DFO's Role**

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**Important Information Regarding Whales**: Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) wishes to provide information to licence holders in the Gulf Region on the high number of North Atlantic Right Whales (NARWs) observed in the Gulf of St. Lawrence.​ Please read the Notice to Fishers below:

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**Gulf Region Marine Conservation Targets Update:** Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Gulf region is pleased to present you the second edition of the Marine Conservation Targets updates for **Summer 2017**.
In this edition of the newsletter, you’ll find more information and updates on:
·        National marine conservation targets;
·        Marine Protected Areas Network Development for the Estuary and Gulf of St. Lawrence Bioregion;
·        Areas of Interest;
·        Sensitive Benthic Areas/Coral and Sponge;
·        Other Effective Area Based Conservation Measures (OEABCM);
·        Legislative Changes to the Oceans Act.
 As always, DFO encourages everyone to provide feedback on content and format that could help them improve the newsletter.

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**The North Atlantic Fish and Workboat Show:** The **North Atlantic Fish & Workboat Show** returns to the Mile One Centre in St. John’s, Newfoundland this fall. Taking place **November 16-17, 2018**, this year marks the **6th edition** of this biennial event.
For complete show details, visit [www.NAFISH.ca](http://www.nafish.ca/) or find the show on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/NorthAtlanticFishWorkboatShow/) and [Twitter](https://twitter.com/NAFishWorkboat).
**SHOW HOURS:**
 Friday, November 16, 2018
10:00am – 5:00pm
 Saturday, November 17, 2018
10:00am – 4:00pm
 **LOCATION:**
 Mile One Centre
50 New Gower Street
St. John’s, NL

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​**Fleet Planning Board Website**: The Fleet Planning Board now has a website up and running. You can check out the latest news from them at http://fleetplanningboard.ca/ or click the link below:

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**Retirement Announcement:** Leroy MacEachern will retire on February 27th, 2018. Inverness South wishes him a very happy retirement!

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**Snow Crab TAC for 2018:** DFO has released the TAC for Snow Crab for 2018:

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**Snow Crab Tagging Study: ​** DFO wishes to advise that a tagging study is currently being conducted by DFO Science in the southern Gulf of St. Lawrence to better understand the movement of snow crab. The Notice to Fishers below contains all the information regarding what to do if you capture a tagged crab:

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**The Northern Pulp Pipeline:​** The article below is an excellent read, with lots of information about Northern Pulp and the current fight against their intention to pipe effluent into the Strait. It was written by Linda Pannozzo and published in the Halifax Examiner on November 22, 2017. Click the link below:

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**Eastern Shore Fishermen worried about proposed Marine Protected Area:​**The proposed marine protected area, taking in the Eastern Shore Islands, would be the first marine protected area along the Atlantic coast of Nova Scotia.
​Click the link below:

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**Upcoming Courses:** The following courses are being offered in the coming weeks at the NSCC campus in Port Hawkesbury:
​
MED-DVS: Apr. 3 - 6
​SVOP: March 26 - 29
​            April 9 - 12
​ROC-MC: April 18 - 20
​                 April 25 - 27

​Contact the Nautical School at:
​nautical@nscc.ca
(902) 625-4228

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**Snow Crab Fishery has MSC certification suspended:** The death of several whales in 2017 have lead to the Snow Crab fishery in certain areas to have its MSC certification suspended. To read the article from www.seafoodsource.com, click the link below:

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**MSC Suspension Article**

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**​Whale Protection Measures:** The Federal Government has implemented measures to protect the North Atlantic Right Whale. Some measures include:
​- for vessels over 20 metres, a maximum speed of 10 knots from April 28 - Nov. 15 when travelling in the western Gulf of St. Lawrence
​- all crab gear must be out of the water by June 30th, 2018, 2 weeks earlier than previous years.
​To read the entire press releases, click the links below:

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**Upcoming First Aid Courses:**

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**DFO's Role in the review of Northern Pulp**: Find attached a brief summary of DFO's role in the review of Northern Pulp. Click the link to read it: