

**2024-2025 CONSERVATION HARVESTING PLAN  
REDFISH FISHERY – UNIT I  
QUEBEC AND GULF REGION MOBILE GEAR FLEET – LESS THAN 19.81  
METRES**

**Approved: August 7, 2024  
Updated: October 31, 2024**

This *Conservation Harvesting Plan* (CHP) applies to all Gulf and Quebec Region groundfish licence holders with mobile gear vessels less than 19.81 metres regardless of homeport, fishing redfish in Unit 1 (Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) divisions 4RST, 3Pn & 4Vn (Jan-May)) during the period from **May 15, 2024 to May 14, 2025**.

When fishing in another NAFO division in a particular area, the CHP for that area will apply. It is to be noted that this CHP is subject to change following ministerial decisions or annual review. Directed fishing for any other groundfish species will require a separate CHP.

The management measures during the fishery are as follows:

### **1. Fishing Season**

To respect the spawning period, fishing activities will not begin before **June 15, 2024 and the season will end March 31, 2025**.

- NAFO divisions 4RST will be open from June 15 to December 31, in the area between 59° and 65° longitude West.
- NAFO subdivision 3Pn and 4Vn will be open from January 1 to March 31.

### **2. Fishing Gear**

From June 15 to December 31, all otter trawl gear type are permitted where the mesh size of the cod-end and lengthening piece are a minimum of 90mm.

From January 1 to March 31, midwater trawls will be required where the mesh size of the cod-end and lengthening piece are a minimum of 90mm.

### **3. Quotas**

The inshore fleet shares will be as follows :

- |   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| ➤ Quebec                                    | : 3,579.8 tonnes |
| ➤ Newfoundland and Labrador                 | : 3,365.0 tonnes |
| ➤ New Brunswick (Gulf)                      | : 463.3 tonnes   |
| ➤ Prince Edward Island                      | : 275.4 tonnes   |
| ➤ Nova Scotia (Gulf)                        | : 270.2 tonnes   |
| ➤ Nova Scotia and New Brunswick (Maritimes) | : 208.2 tonnes   |

**Total: 8,162 tonnes**

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**4. Management Regime**

This fishery will be managed as a competitive fishery.

**5. Exclusivity of participation**

A licence holder participating in the Unit 1 redfish fishery can only fish under one allocation at a time.

**6. By-catch limits**

By-catch is defined as the weight of a by-catch species divided by the weight of the directed species, in this case, redfish.

While directing for redfish in Unit 1, the following by-catch provisions will apply:

➤ 4TVn Cod	1% per fishing trip
➤ 3Pn4RS Cod	1% per fishing trip
➤ 4T American plaice	1% per fishing trip
➤ 4T White hake	1% per fishing trip
➤ 3Pn4RSTVn Atlantic halibut	1% per fishing trip
➤ 4RST Greenland halibut	1% per fishing trip
➤ Other species of groundfish	5% per fishing trip

Bycatch caps for **3Pn4RS cod, 4T White hake, 4TVn cod** have been established to guide management of the Unit 1 redfish fishery:

➤ 3Pn4RS Cod	2.7 tonnes
➤ 4T White hake	2.5 tonnes
➤ 4TVn Cod	2.1 tonnes

Once a bycatch cap is reached by the fleet, the Department will assess whether additional bycatch allowance can be re-allocated. If not, the Unit 1 redfish fishery may be closed for the inshore fleet for the remainder of the fishing season.

By-catch of groundfish species cannot be returned to the water unless a condition of licence authorizes to do so.

Should a species by-catch exceeds the above percentages, a fleet or specified fleet sectors could be prohibited from fishing in certain fishing areas.

The Department monitors the dumping and discarding of groundfish at sea. If a fleet sector or an individual is suspected of dumping and discarding groundfish at sea, additional management measures including fisheries closures and/or legal proceedings, could be initiated. The industry funded at-sea observer coverage may also be increased.

**7. Small Fish Protocol**

The small fish protocol that will apply:

Cod	43 cm
American Plaice	30 cm
Witch Flounder	30 cm
White Hake	45 cm
Winter Flounder	25 cm
Yellowtail Flounder	25 cm

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Atlantic Halibut	85 cm
Greenland Halibut	44 cm
Redfish	22 cm

Areas will be closed for specified fleet sectors when the number of undersized fish reaches or exceeds 15% of the catch of any of the above species.

#### **8. Dockside Monitoring**

Dockside monitoring program (DMP) at 100% of the landings is mandatory.

#### **9. Electronic Logbooks**

The use of an electronic logbook (ELOG) is mandatory in 2024-25. Fish Harvesters must use a client application approved by DFO for use in their respective region. Furthermore, fish harvesters must obtain and install the ELOG Key in the client application in order to allow data transmission to the Department.

The fishing logbook or ELOG must be completed after each set, at each change in sub-division, and at least once a day, before returning to port. The ELOG must be completed for each fishing expedition and “closed” before arriving at port. A fishing expedition means a voyage that commences at the time a fishing vessel leaves a port to engage in fishing and terminates at the time fish caught during that period are offloaded. Hence, when a fish harvester goes back to port for a reason other than for offloading fish and leaves port again, the fishing expedition goes on until fish are offloaded.

To consult the list of client applications approved by the Department and to obtain your ELOG key, visit Fisheries and Ocean’s web page at the following address: [www.dfompo.gc.ca/elogs](http://www.dfompo.gc.ca/elogs)

To request a modification to data that has been transmitted to Fisheries and Oceans, you must communicate with the client support service at 1-877-535-7307.

#### **10. At-sea Observer Coverage**

From June 15 to October 31, the industry-funded At-Sea Observer Program covers at a minimum 25% of the redfish fishing trips.

From November 1 to March 31 the industry-funded At-Sea Observer Program covers 100% of the redfish fishing trips.

The at-sea observer coverage levels are in place to ensure the proper monitoring of by-catch, and discarding at sea.

#### **11. Hail prior to departure**

A hail prior to departure is mandatory.

Fish harvesters are required to call the following new phone number: 1-833-699-2013 (toll free) or 1-506-431-3223 (satellite phone only) to make their new, modified or cancelled hail out.

#### **12. At-Sea Report (Daily Hails)**

When at sea, all licence holders are required to complete a daily catch report no later than noon (12 p.m. local time) by submitting by e-mail the form available online at the following address: <https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fisheries-peches/reports-rapports/schedule-2/index-eng.html>.

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**13. Catch Monitoring & Test Fishery**

Small fish and by-catch fleet closures will be of a minimum duration of 10 days. The cost of conducting all test fisheries will be borne by industry. If a fishery is closed, it will not re-open unless DFO feels that it can be effectively monitored and controlled. If any particular fishery is closed twice during the year because of by-catch or small fish, the fishery may remain closed for the remainder of the year.

**14. Vessel monitoring system**

The use of a Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) approved by DFO is mandatory. Each licence holder/fishing vessel operator must register his DFO-approved VMS unit prior to the beginning of his fishing activities. Data transmission every 15 minutes is required.

The current list of DFO-approved VMS units and the procedure and form to register a VMS unit are available at the following address: <https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fisheries-peches/sdc-cps/vessel-monitoring-surveillance-navire/index-eng.html>

**15. Other Management Measures**

- From June 15 to October 31, fishing activities must be conducted at depths greater than 131 fathoms (240 metres).
  
- From November 1 to March 31, fishing activities must be conducted at depths greater than 100 fathoms (183 metres).

a. Crew registry

Since April 1st, 2021, inshore commercial licence holders, and their approved substitute operators, must keep records of all the crew members working aboard the vessel on every fishing trip. These records must be maintained by the licence holder for a period of five (5) years. This requirement does not apply to pre-1979 corporation licence and to any licence issued under the authority of the Aboriginal Communal Fishing Licences Regulations. For further details, refer to the March 17th, 2021, Notice to Fish Harvesters or contact the Licensing Office at 1-877-535-7307 or [fishingpeche@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:fishingpeche@dfo-mpo.gc.ca).

b. Waste disposal

The licence holder/operator is prohibited from discarding in Canadian fisheries waters from their vessel any item that may be harmful to fish or fish habitat including but not limited to plastics, ropes, fishing gear, garbage bags, fuel, oil, rags, glass, bottles, metal, extruded polystyrene foam (e.g. Styrofoam) and tires.

**16. Permanent closures of fishing areas**

16.1 Closures for the protection of corals and sponges

On December 15, 2017, sensitive benthic areas were closed to all fishing in order to protect corals and sponges.

All directed fishing activities for redfish, including those conducted with midwater trawls, are prohibited in these conservation areas.

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You will find the coordinates and a map of those closures on the following website: <https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/oceans/ceccsr-cerceef/egsl-eng.html>.

16.2 Banc-des-Américains Marine Protected Area

On March 6, 2019, Fisheries and Oceans Canada created, jointly with the Quebec government, the Banc-des-Américains Marine Protected Area (MPA) in order to ensure the conservation and protection of this marine ecosystem.

Provisions of the *Banc-des-Américains Marine Protected Area Regulations* apply to licence holders. In order to comply with them, please refer to the clauses that apply to your fishing activities: <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/SOR-2019-50/page-1.html>.

16.3 Other Closures

The area closure in Division 4T, as defined in the Notice to Fish Harvesters issued on August 11, 2009, is maintained. Directed fishing for redfish is thus prohibited in the sector delineated by the following coordinates:

1. 48° 36' 44" N , 62° 16' 49" W
2. 49° 07' 42" N , 63° 47' 19" W
3. 48° 58' 22" N , 64° 12' 48" W
4. 48° 51' 38" N , 63° 51' 20" W
5. 48° 22' 10" N , 62° 55' 02" W
6. 48° 16' 28" N , 62° 16' 49" W
7. 48° 36' 44" N , 62° 16' 49" W

Since July 27, 2017, a new closure area in Division 4T is in effect. Directed fishing for redfish is thus prohibited in the sector delineated by the following coordinates:

1. 49° 12' 50.40" N , 65° 00' 00" W
2. 49° 25' 01.20" N , 65° 00' 00" W
3. 49° 25' 00.22" N , 64° 39' 57.64" W
4. 49° 07' 42.00" N , 63° 47' 19.00" W
5. 48° 58' 22.00" N , 64° 12' 48.00" W
6. 48° 54' 35.03" N , 64° 00' 42.29" W
7. 48° 45' 23.17" N , 64° 10' 05.59" W

**17. Quota Reconciliation**

Quota reconciliation provides that any overharvest of a quota in one year, on an Individual Quota regime or in a competitive fishery, will be counted against the quota established for following fishing season. For example, quota overruns by a licence holder or by a fleet during a fishing management year will be deducted from quotas for the following season on a one-for-one basis.

In the month following the end of the fishing season, the Department makes any necessary changes to quotas for the current year based on quota overruns, if applicable.

**18. Species at Risk Act**

Pursuant to the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA), no person shall kill, harm, harass, capture, take, possess, collect, buy, sell or trade an individual or any part or derivate of a wildlife species designated as extirpated, endangered or threatened.

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At the time this *Conservation Harvesting Plan* is promulgated, the Atlantic species targeted by these measures are the following ones: Spotted wolffish (threatened), Northern wolffish (threatened), Leatherback Turtle (endangered), the Striped Bass (St. Lawrence River population – endangered) and exceptionally the White Shark (Atlantic population - endangered). New species could be added to the SARA within the year.

All by-catches of species identified above must be returned to the water and released in the exact capture location and, if the fish is still alive, with as little harm as possible. The information related to species at risk shall be collected for each fishing trip where such a species is caught. This information must be entered into the Species at Risk logbook and sent to fisheries and Oceans Canada immediately after the fishing trip.

**19. Conditions of licence**




To obtain their *Conditions of licence*, fish harvesters must access the National Online Licensing System. For National Online Licensing System assistance, please contact customer support by phone at 1 877-535-7307 or by email at [fishing-peche@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:fishing-peche@dfo-mpo.gc.ca).

**20. Management measures to minimize the risks of interactions with the North Atlantic Right Whale**

The Management measures to minimize interactions with North Atlantic Right Whales (NARW) can be found at the following address:

<https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fisheries-peches/commercial-commerciale/atl-arc/narw-bnan/management-gestion-eng.html>

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<b>Report North Atlantic Right Whale Sightings</b>		<b>Signalez les observations de baleines noires de l'Atlantique Nord</b>	
			
<small>Source: Anderson Cabot Center for Ocean Life at the New England Aquarium</small>			
<b>V-shape blow</b> Souffle en forme de V	<b>Y-shape black tail</b> Queue noire en forme de Y	<b>No dorsal Fin</b> <b>White spots on head</b> Pas de nageoire dorsale Taches blanches sur la tête	
<b>MAINTAIN A MINIMUM 100 METRE DISTANCE</b>		<b>GARDEZ UNE DISTANCE MINIMALE DE 100 MÈTRES</b>	
<b>PLEASE PROVIDE:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contact information</li> <li>• Date and time of sighting</li> <li>• Lat Long coordinates</li> <li>• Number of Right Whales observed</li> <li>• Photos and / or videos (if possible)</li> </ul>		<b>SVP VEUILLEZ FOURNIR :</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vos coordonnées</li> <li>• Date et heure de l'observation</li> <li>• Coordonnées Lat.\Long.</li> <li>• Nombre de baleines noires observées</li> <li>• Photos et / ou vidéos (si possible)</li> </ul>	
<b>Sightings of <u>live, free-swimming</u> North Atlantic Right Whales must be reported to:</b>		<b>Les observations de baleines noires de l'Atlantique Nord <u>vivantes et nageant librement doivent</u> être signalées au :</b>	
<a href="mailto:DFO.GLFWhales-BaleinesGLF.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca">DFO.GLFWhales-BaleinesGLF.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca</a>		<a href="mailto:DFO.GLFWhales-BaleinesGLF.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca">DFO.GLFWhales-BaleinesGLF.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca</a>	

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<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Sightings of <u>entangled, dead, or injured</u> North Atlantic Right Whales must be reported to the following regional organizations:</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Les observations de baleines noires de l'Atlantique Nord <u>enchevêtrées, blessées ou mortes</u> doivent être signalées aux organisations régionales suivantes :</b></p>
<p>New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island:        Marine Animal Response Society au 1-866-567-6277</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Quebec:        Marine Mammal Emergencies at 1-877-722-5346</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Newfoundland and Labrador:        Whale Release and Strandings at 1-709-895-3003</p>	<p>Nouveau-Brunswick, Nouvelle-Écosse, Île-du-Prince-Édouard :        Marine Animal Response Society at 1-866-567-6277</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Québec:        Urgences Mammifères Marins au 1-877-722-5346</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Terre-Neuve-et-Labrador :        Whale Release and Strandings au 1-709-895-3003</p>