



## **RECORD OF DISCUSSIONS**

Gulf Small Pelagics Advisory Committee

November 16, 2021

### **ATTENDEES**

The list of attendees is in Annex 1.

### **OPENING WORDS**

The chairperson, Mireille Chiasson, stated that she was really happy to be hosting the meeting again this year and because of the current health measures, the Department must continue to use these online platforms. She is hoping the next meeting can take place in person.

Participants were asked to take a moment to reflect on the land on which they are on and Ms. Chiasson acknowledged that she was in Moncton, New Brunswick, which is on traditional unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people.

Meeting ground rules were discussed, including the fact that the meeting would take place in both official languages, English and French, with simultaneous interpretation available.

Committee members were reminded that this Advisory Committee usually meets once every two years to discuss global issues in the herring fishery affecting all Herring Fishing Areas from 16A to 16G. Even though the last meeting took place in February of 2021, it was decided to meet earlier in the year (November 16<sup>th</sup>) in order to allow sufficient time for representatives to meet with their members to provide recommendations and comments for the 2022 herring spring fishery. Last year's decision for the 2021 fishery was announced late and created a very difficult situation for everyone.

The chairperson mentioned that the stock has been in the critical zone of the Precautionary Approach (PA) since 2002 and the status is not improving. Three major factors are contributing to the decline of the stock for the spring herring: natural mortality by predation, environmental factors and fishing activities. The only factor that we can control is fishing activity, which will be the focus of the discussions for the meeting.

The Department is continuing to work on the completion of the rebuilding plan, in line with the Precautionary Approach (PA) and the new Fish Stock Provisions (FSP). Progress is expected in the coming months and the objective is to have a rebuilding plan drafted to share with industry representatives and members of the Committee in 2022.

It was reiterated that closing the bait and commercial herring spring fisheries remains a real possibility and that everything is on the table for next year. The Committee is meeting today to discuss last year's fishery and also to provide recommendations and comments for the 2022 season.

### **REVIEW OF THE RECORD OF DISCUSSIONS**

A few members of the Committee asked for last year's minutes to reflect the technical issues that occurred, mainly with translation, and that many participants left the meeting before it was adjourned because of this. The meeting was held via the Zoom platform, which was new for many and did not occur without complications.



Laura Ramsay from the Prince Edward Island Fishermen's Association (PEIFA) asked for the rebuilding plan to be shared with industry representatives before it is sent to the Minister. The chairperson confirmed that it would be shared with industry for comments before being finalized.

Louis Ferguson from the Maritime's Fisherman's Union (MFU) requested that some modifications be made in the record of discussions to properly reflect their interventions during the meeting.

**ACTION ITEM :** Update the minutes and share them with the Committee members.

**UPDATE (November 25, 2021) :** Modifications were made to the meeting minutes and shared with the Committee members.

## **AGENDA**

The agenda was accepted as is.

## **REVISED TERMS OF REFERENCE**

Sylvie Leger, Resource Management, Gulf Region, mentioned that they recently shared the new Terms of reference (TOR) for review and comments and that industry representatives will have until the end of January to provide feedback. Some of the key elements are the mandate, meeting frequency, membership and acceptance of new members, participation of guests, minutes and timeline for sharing documents before the meeting. The revised document (with comments, if any) will be shared before it is finalized and adopted to an upcoming GSPAC meeting.

The MFU will send their recommendations in writing and mentioned that their representation at the table in the new TOR is too limited. They also questioned the official presence of environmental non-governmental organizations (ENGOS) as members of the Committee and argued that these organizations do not necessarily represent Canadian interests, as they often receive international funding. The MFU perceive this as possibly being problematic for this fishery and others. Other representatives agreed with MFU and some mentioned they would prefer ENGOS to seat as observers only, as opposed to members.

The chairperson responded it was clearly identified by National headquarters (NHQ) that ENGOS have a place at the table during advisory meetings but that she would seek further guidance and follow-up on this matter.

PEIFA asked for more time after the meeting to submit official recommendations and would like to receive, if possible, a summary of everyone's position.

The chairperson confirmed time would be allowed to submit recommendations, which will be shared with the membership.

Katie Schleit representing Oceans North's addressed the group in regards to comments made on the participation of ENGOS. She stated that ENGOS have been members of advisory committees for years, and that this is in line with the mandate of the government and the Fisheries Act. She expressed frustration and noted that this was an old debate.

**UPDATE:** The deadline to submit feedback on the TOR was extended to the end of February 2022.



## **SUMMARY OF THE 2021 SPRING HERRING FISHERY**

The 2021 landings were presented by David Giard from Resource Management, Gulf Region. The presentation can be found in Annex 2.

## **PRESENTATION FROM CONSERVATION AND PROTECTION**

Raoul Bourgeois from Conservation and Protection (C&P), Quebec Region, presented the enforcement data for 2021. The presentation can be found in Annex 3.

Glen Gillespie from C&P, Gulf Region, presented the enforcement data for 2021. No presentation was shared due to technical difficulties with their new system. Here are the key points of his presentation :

- C&P Gulf Region spent a considerable amount of time on the enforcement of the small pelagics fisheries in 2021 (such as herring and mackerel) ; much more than in recent years.
- Numerous violations were detected which resulted in prosecutions.
- Prosecutions files that are ongoing include : undersized mackerel, undersized gillnet mesh, untagged nets, sales of bait and exceeding fathom of mackerel and gillnets.
- Reporting in the bait fishery continues to be an issue.

ACTION ITEM : Glenn Gillespie will share a presentation when completed.

## **4T ATLANTIC SPRING STOCK REVIEW**

The 2021 review of the spring stock and an update on the science surveys was presented by Nicolas Rolland from Science, Gulf Region. The presentation can be found in Annex 4.

### Main comments from industry on the spring stock review presentation

- Percentages should be attributed where the fishing pressure, the low recruitment, the high natural mortality, the declining weight-at-age and the continuing environmental changes are presented to show that the fishing pressure is not the main driver.
- What's the goal for recruitment? What's the average in abundance?
- Has there been a review of the PA time series?
- Confusion between what caused the decline to the critical zone and what is now stopping the increase of the stock.
- What is important now is to look at the rebuilding of the stock. The limit reference point and the lower reference point play a huge role in the decision making process at NHQ. Since these play a major role and if they have not been reviewed in a long time, it might be important to do so.

François Turcotte from Science, Gulf Region, commented on the work conducted for the rebuilding plan and talked about the review of all reference points under the framework. With regards to a suggestion made on only using recent data to evaluate the stock trends, he noted that overlooking the past data, when the stock was healthy, would make it seem like the stock is stable while in reality, it would be using a damaged stock and letting ourselves damage it even more.



#### Main comments from industry following the update on the science surveys

- The importance of using the right equipment to get more out of the science (floats on nets).
- In regards to the timeframe of the survey, Science would like the experimental nets to be alongside the commercial nets. Realistically, the fishery only lasts five or six days. Not convinced it's feasible with such a tight timeline.
- We should separate the science survey from the commercial fishery and be ready to start at the beginning of April.
- We think that the experimental nets should be set before or at the same time as the spring season begins. If we want to get the full picture of the fish coming in and out of the water, we should be aiming to set the experimental nets by April 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Marking the fish and observing the behavior of spring herring versus fall herring.
- Timing of the tide is crucial for catching fish.
- In regards to the spring acoustic survey, will we be able to add sites and make adjustments based on information of sightings we have received recently?
- Questions on what is being done about the seal problem.
- Is there anything that Science is working on or proposing that would be able to address the outcome and would lead to the recovery? What can assist in the recovery?

Matthew Hardy from Science, Gulf Region, stated that herring is a really important species for ecosystems functions. It has been stuck in the critical zone for a very long time and low recruitment, declining weight-at-age and warming conditions are things we should all be concerned with. Recruitment needs to improve for a few consecutive years to support a rebuilding of the abundance of the stock. Our role under the PA framework is to help promote growth to rebuild stocks that are in the critical zone. Science is going to continue to work on refining their methodologies and continue to have peer reviews. There's always going to be something to improve and better data to collect in order to reduce the uncertainties. We shouldn't be distracted by the uncertainties and lose sight in the fact that we are quite confident in these results; there is consistency in the data going back several years using multiple indicators. Although there are aspects that we want to continue to improve, the overall picture has been pretty clear and consistent when it comes to this stock. This is important to take away from the science presentation today.

Sebastián Pardo from the Ecology Action Center said the only tool available at the moment to improve the outcome is to reduce fishing activities.

A few industry representatives have ideas and suggestions on how to address the seal problem and would like to discuss them, when appropriate.

**ACTION ITEM :** Confirm if the seal presentation from Pictou Landing First Nation can be shared.

**UPDATE (December 16, 2021) :** The presentation was shared with the advisory committee members.

#### **FISHERIES MANAGEMENT UPDATE**

The fisheries management update was presented by David Giard from Resource Management, Gulf Region. The presentation can be found in Annex 5.

There was also a brief update on the rebuilding plan. The draft is still being developed and will be shared with industry before being finalized. Some of the things the Department is working on are the measurable objectives, recovery targets, timelines, etc.



### Main comments from industry following the fisheries management update

- In regards to weekend closures, these are new measures and it will take four to five years to see results. It is a step in the right direction. Same thing for the bait fishery.
- Disappointed in the lack of progress and updates on the rebuilding plan. Requested for a timeline and something more substantial in regards to progress.
- In the recent years, we've received a lot of comments in regards to observations of eggs in the water. Questioning the fertility of eggs.
- Disappointed that there's not many fish harvesters on this call. Would like to know how you can explain what was caught in 2021. DFO is saying there's no fish but fish harvesters caught it quicker than ever last year.
- Nicolas Roland (Science) stated that the reason there's so many fish around when fish harvesters are fishing is because herring tends to aggregate and they tend to fish when they are aggregating. He noted that's it's a biased view to think that if you have fish when you are fishing it means that there's a lot of fish. That's not the case.
- The chairperson mentioned that C&P is well aware of the issues in the bait fishery and that not all landings are accounted for. Everyone should keep in mind during the discussions that the complete closure of the fishery is still on the table.
- Industry is asking, why does DFO always say that they want to shut down the fishery? Where is the misreporting? Is it on the bait fishery?
- According to Glen Gillespie (C&P), misreporting is an absolute fact. C&P finds evidence of misreporting in the bait fishery every time they conduct surveillance.
- Request for license conditions to be issued 30 days before the season starts.
- There should be an efficient electronic logbook (ELOG) system for the bait fishery. There is a model in Gaspésie that seems to be working. Part of the solution is to have a quick and easy way to report.
- Possible funding to find alternative bait through the Atlantic Fisheries Fund.
- Questions on who would benefit from this fishery closing.
- Seems like we created the bait fishery by design of a commercial fishery. Back in the day, the bait licences would only be valid when the commercial fishery was closed.
- Suggestion for fish harvesters to have a buyback program where they stack the licenses and only get five nets. This could be a way to reduce the commercial licenses.
- A closure of the fishery or the elimination of bait would greatly impact our fish harvesters. Don't want to downplay this. It is not just a handful of fish harvesters. It is a very important fishery and there would be a lot of implications with a closure.
- Have artificial reefs been considered by DFO as a way of creating a better habitat and more zooplankton?
- Nicolas Roland (Science) noted that for zooplankton, the only thing that is needed is good climate and environmental conditions. In regards to the spawning grounds, he said that it is not something that they think would be valuable to look at.
- Glen Gillespie (C&P) said that there has been discussions between Resource Management and C&P in regards to the bait fishery. They have some ideas and they want to further look at the hail system.

Following the questions, Mr. Giard asked the members of the GSPAC what could be done to improve the recruitment of the stock. He stated that the Department is looking for suggestions and recommendations from stakeholders on how to manage the growth of the stock.

The chairperson stated she would like a two year decision. The Department will continue to try to rebuild the stock because it is a requirement in the law for the Minister to do so with the new fish stock provisions. Industry recommendations will be summarized in a table and shared with members of the GSPAC before being finalized for the decision memo.



More comments following the fisheries management update

- Laura Ramsey (PEIFA) said that last year they recommended a 1,250 t TAC. She noted the Department reduced the number of nets from 23 nets to 10 nets, which was not supported by industry. She noted that it would be very difficult to get back to her members and discuss more management measures on a fishery that already has so many restrictions. She suggested that the Department wait at least three to four years to see the impact of recent management measures.
- The chairperson said that currently, this fishery is not compliant with the PA and that she could almost guarantee that the TAC will not be more than 500 t.
- According to Louis Ferguson (MFU), a 500 t TAC is the same as an index or small sentinel fishery. He added that managing sub-divisions by areas instead of a global TAC is something that industry has been proposing for a few years.
- Martin Mallet (MFU) echoed Laura and Louis's statements, and suggested that the TAC be kept at the 500t level but that we improve the way it is managed and fished. He suggested that we stay at this TAC level at the very least and wait to see the effects in the next few years.
- It was suggested to implement designated ports to land bait be implemented to allow C&P to conduct better enforcement activities.
- It was noted that sometimes the minutes don't properly reflect what was said during the advisory meeting.
- The chairperson reiterated that they will provide a timeline to receive industry recommendations and that DFO would gather them in a table and share it back with members to make sure that they reflect what was proposed. She added that DFO provides recommendations to the minister and then the minister decides. We can propose options A and B, but the minister can go with option C.
- One comment was made on the fact that the fishery is actually pretty well managed, but questioned why the bait fishery is opened during the same time as the commercial fishery. The bait fishery would probably be more enforceable if it was only opened when the commercial fishery is closed.
- Glen Gillespie (C&P) noted that the commercial fishery is easier to manage because of requirement for 100% dockside monitoring, and the fact that it is mostly done with larger vessels and the landing are made at designated ports. Mr. Gillespie agreed that the bait fishery is very difficult to manage. The chairperson stated that ideally, a decision would be announced by the end of February.
- Some wondered how many consistent years it will take for fish harvesters to catch their quota before science realizes that they are missing certain information.
- Jenni McDermid (science) noted that it was critical that representatives speak with their members and encourage them to participate in the phone survey conducted by science. She stated that fish harvesters' information forms a huge part of the assessment, and that if they are catching more fish with less effort, that this type of information will show up in the catch per unit effort results.
- Some asked if it would be possible for Science to be present on their boats during fishing activities.
- Howie Beaton (Inverness South Fishermen's Association) asked if it is an option for additional regions to be conducting surveys. He noted that some of their members may be interested and added that they are located on the west side of Cape Breton.
- Nicolas Rolland (science) said that they could look at this based on the budget they have available to cover the survey.
- There was a comment that other predators should also be listed as part of the problem, such as striped bass and seals.



## **OTHER SMALL PELAGICS**

The presentation can be found in Annex 6.

### **Mackerel**

A brief update on mackerel was given by Mireille Chiasson (chairperson). The TAC for 2021 was 4,000 t divided in two equal portion of 2,000 t. Mackerel is managed out of Ottawa and they have the lead on the management of this species. The mackerel stock is also in the critical zone of the precautionary approach and there have been no sign of any notable recruitment in the recent years. A rebuilding plan is being developed and will be updated following the stock assessment in 2023. The next Atlantic Mackerel Advisory Committee (AMAC) is scheduled for February 2022.

Laura Ramsey (PEIFA) mentioned that there was a lot of discussions for the spring herring and bait but not about mackerel. She added that we should recognize that they have implications on one another.

David Giard presented the landings for capelin and mackerel. He informed members that a logbook is being developed and could be implemented next year for fall herring, bait and mackerel.

Some asked if the advisory meeting for fall herring could be held earlier than currently planned because harvesters start fishing in early April. In response, David said he would look into it, but that he cannot schedule it prior to the science assessment and needs to allow time for science to do their review/summary after the assessment. There may be a small window for an opportunity to hold the meeting a bit earlier. Industry will be informed if a date change is possible.

## **MEETING CLOSURE**

The chairperson closed the meeting by thanking everybody for their participation and also for their input in the discussions. She added that the Department would wait for the recommendations from industry and that everyone should expect a quick turnaround and feedback in preparation for the decision memo of 2022.

**ACTION ITEM** : Once received, share recommendations with industry for feedback.

**UPDATE** (December 16, 2021) : The recommendations (Annex 7) were shared with industry for feedback.





## ANNEX 1

Name	Association		
Adam Jerome	Mi'kmaq Maliseet Aboriginal Fisheries Management Association & Gespe'gewaq Mi'gmaq Resource Council		
Craig Knickle	Mi'kmaq Confederacy of Prince Edward Island		
Sean Triska	Mawiw Council Inc.		
Michael Lindquist	Micmac Nation of Gespeg		
Annie Ferguson	New Brunswick Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries		
Terry Hatt	New Brunswick Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries		
Alan Chandler	Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture		
Scott Samson	Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture		
Robert MacMillan	PEI Department of Fisheries and Communities		
Dave MacEwen	PEI Department of Fisheries and Communities		
Gilles Duguay	Regroupement des pêcheurs professionnels du sud de la Gaspésie (RPPSG)		
Howie Beaton	Inverness South Fishermen's Association		
Martin Mallet	Maritimes Fishermen's Union		
Louis Ferguson	Maritimes Fishermen's Union		
Luc LeBlanc	Maritimes Fishermen's Union		
Lyne Robichaud	Maritimes Fishermen's Union		
Laura Ramsay	Prince Edward Island Fishermen's Association		
Trevor Barlow	Prince Edward Island Fishermen's Association		
Yvan Gallant	Prince Edward Island Fishermen's Association		
Molly Aylward	Prince Edward Island Fishermen's Association		
Lee Knox	Prince Edward Island Fishermen's Association		
Kenneth LeClair	Prince Edward Island Fishermen's Association		
Joe Barry	Barry Group		
David Barry	Barry Group		
Michel Gauvin	Barry Group		
Jeffrey Vauthier	Transformateur du Sud de la Gaspésie		
Katie Schleit	Oceans North		
Sebastián Pardo	Ecology Action Center		
Fisheries and Oceans Canada representatives			
Mireille Chiasson (chairperson)	Sylvie Leger	David Giard	Jean Picard
Christina Savoie	Alan Dwyer	Mario Gaudet	Benjamin Moore
Antoine Rivierre	Mathieu Pellerin	Glen Gillespie	Raoul Bourgeois
Nicolas Rolland	Rémi Sonier	Jenness Cawthray	Krista Peterson
Jenni McDermid	François Turcotte	Rachel Delong	Amélie Rondeau
Monica MacLellan	Jacques Boudreau	Luc Légère	Matthew Hardy





## ANNEX 2

# Summary of the 2021 herring spring fishery Sommaire de la pêche de printemps du hareng de 2021

Presented to / Présenté au  
Gulf Small Pelagics Advisory Committee  
Comité consultatif des petits pélagiques du Golfe

November 16-17, 2021 / 16-17 novembre 2021

Canada

## 2021 Herring spring fishery landings (t) Débarquements (t) de la pêche de printemps du hareng de 2021

Herring Fishing Area / Zone de pêche du hareng	Initial quota Quota initial	Revised Quota Quota révisé	Landings Débarquements	Amount remaining Montant restant	Close date Date fermeture
16A + 16D	17	5.249	5.249	0	
16B	18.09	68.09	104.299	-36.209	April 23 / 23 avril
16C + 16E	199.34	175.279	206.514	-31.235	April 23 / 23 avril
16F	5	0	0	0	
16G	5.72	0	0	0	
16A-G (June / juin)	15.64	68.288	4.85	63.434	
Mobile Gear >65 feet / Engins mobiles >65 pieds	115.6	115.6	0	115.6	
Reserve / Réserve	123.56	0	0	0	
Bait Fishery / Pêche d'appât	0	0	94.681	0	
4T TOTAL	500.0	432.5	320.9	179.034 111.6	

Preliminary data/Données préliminaires

Canada



## 2021 Herring spring fishery landings (t) Débarquements (t) de la pêche de printemps du hareng de 2021

### Commercial fishery / Pêche commerciale

HFAs / ZPH	16A+16D	16B	16C+16E	16A-G (June/juin)	Total
<b>Landings / débarquements (t)</b>	5.249	104.299	206.514	4.853	320.916
<b>License # / # de licences</b>	15	49	58	9	125

### Bait fishery / Pêche d'appât

HFAs / ZPH	16A+16D	16B	16C+16E	16F	16G	Total
<b>Landings / débarquements (t)</b>	1.948	51.272	37.025	2.573	1.864	94.681
<b>License # / # de licences</b>	23	45	86	6	9	169

### Commercial and bait fishery / Pêche commerciale et d'appât

HFAs / ZPH	Total
<b>Landings / débarquements (t)</b>	415.597
<b>License # / # de licences</b>	294
<b>Participants</b>	253

Preliminary data/Données préliminaires

Canada



## 2021 commercial fishery timeline Déroulement de la pêche commerciale 2021

### Commercial fishery / Pêche commerciale

Day/Month	Participants	Daily/Monthly Landings (t)	Cumulative Landings (t)	Cumulative Landings(%)
Jour/Mois		Débarquements jour/mois (t)	Débarquements cumulatifs (t)	Débarquements cumulatifs (%)
4/16/2021	40	47.116	47.116	14.68%
4/19/2021	56	86.305	133.420	41.57%
4/20/2021	82	71.179	204.599	63.75%
4/21/2021	70	27.702	232.301	72.39%
4/22/2021	51	40.265	272.566	84.93%
4/23/2021	27	37.137	309.702	96.51%
4/26/2021	6	2.483	312.186	97.28%
4/27/2021	5	0.425	312.611	97.41%
4/28/2021	6	0.376	312.987	97.53%
4/29/2021	5	0.185	313.172	97.59%
4/30/2021	7	0.093	313.265	97.62%
April/Avril	121	313.265	313.265	97.62%
May/Mai	8	2.798	316.063	98.49%
June/Juin	9	4.853	320.916	100.00%

Fishery opening/Ouverture de la pêche

Fishery closure/Fermeture de la pêche: 16B, 16C and 16E

Preliminary data/Données préliminaires

Canada



## 2021 bait fishery timeline Déroulement de la pêche d'appât 2021

### Bait fishery / Pêche d'appât

Day/Month Jour/Mois	Participants	Daily/Monthly Landings (t) Débarquements jour/mois (t)	Cumulative Landings (t) Débarquements cumulatifs (t)	Cumulative Landings (%) Débarquements cumulatifs (%)
4/15/2021	5	0.816	0.816	0.88%
4/16/2021	28	3.269	4.067	4.37%
4/19/2021	19	4.548	8.465	9.09%
4/20/2021	49	9.149	17.505	18.80%
4/21/2021	47	4.839	21.794	23.41%
4/22/2021	21	2.478	24.227	26.02%
4/23/2021	14	3.202	27.225	29.24%
4/26/2021	37	22.272	49.492	53.15%
4/27/2021	40	8.268	57.756	62.02%
4/28/2021	54	12.436	70.006	75.18%
4/29/2021	50	7.699	77.538	83.27%
4/30/2021	32	3.169	80.583	86.54%
April/Avril	154	82.147	80.583	86.54%
May/Mai	26	10.911	91.494	98.26%
June/Juin	10	1.623	93.117	100.00%

Preliminary data/Données préliminaires

Canada



Comments/Questions?  
Commentaires/Questions?

Canada



## ANNEX 3



### Quebec Region Small Pelagics Advisory Committee – C&P Enforcement Update

### Comité consultatif des petits pélagiques Région du Québec – Mise à jour Application de la loi



### **Conservation & Protection** Quebec Region / Région du Québec



Canada



### C&P Review Herring & Bait / Revue de la C&P Hareng 2019-2021

FO Hours/Heures agent des pêches	TOTAL		
	2019	2020	2021
Herring Mobile / Hareng mobile	10	39	24
Herring Fixed / Hareng fixe	120	143	255
Herring & Mackerel Bait / Appât Hareng et Maquereau	29	20	52
Mackerel / Maquereau	161	229	670
# sites check/ # visite de sites	2019	2020	2021
Herring Mobile / Hareng mobile	4	10	2
Herring Fixed / Hareng fixe	41	15	71
Herring & Mackerel Bait / Appât Hareng et Maquereau	8	5	15
Mackerel / Maquereau	49	71	158
# Inspections	2019	2020	2021
Herring Mobile / Hareng mobile	3	3	2
Herring Fixed / Hareng fixe	16	40	100
Herring & Mackerel Bait / Appât Hareng et Maquereau	5	6	24
Mackerel / Maquereau	17	29	37

\*Source: FEATS (Fisheries Enforcement Activity Tracking System)/SSAAR (Système de suivi des activités reliées à l'application de la réglementation).



### Violation Types and Actions Taken / Types d'infractions et actions prises

# of Violations	2019	2020	2021
<b>Herring fixed / Hareng fixe</b>			
Warnings/Avertissements	9	5	7
Charges Laid/Accusations portées	4	1	0
Charges Pending/Under Review/Accusations en cours	3	0	6
Seizures-Persons Unknown/Saisie-Personne inconnues	1	1	0

\*Source: DVS (Departmental Violations System)/SMI (Système ministériel d'infractions).





**Violation Types and Actions Taken / Types d'infractions et actions prises**

# of Violations	2019	2020	2021
<b>Herring &amp; Mackerel Bait / Appât Hareng et Maquereau</b>			
Warnings/Avertissements	4	3	2
Charges Laid/Accusations portées	0	0	0
Charges Pending/Under Review/Accusations en cours	0	0	0
Seizures-Persons Unknown/Saisie-Personne inconnues	0	0	0

*\*Source: DVS (Departmental Violations System)/SMI (Système ministériel d'infractions).*



**Violation Types and Actions Taken / Types d'infractions et actions prises**

# of Violations	2019	2020	2021
<b><u>Mackerel</u> / Maquereau</b>			
Warnings/Avertissements	15	12	6
Charges Laid/Accusations portées	8	0	0
Charges Pending/Under Review/Accusations en cours	0	2	10
Seizures-Persons Unknown/Saisie-Personne inconnues	1	0	1

*\*Source: DVS (Departmental Violations System)/SMI (Système ministériel d'infractions).*







## Prosecutions result/ Résultats des infractions

Section	Offence / Infraction	Penalty / Amende
FA 43.4 (1)	<u>Failure to transmit logbook</u> to DFO for <u>herring fisheries</u> . / Avoir omis de transmettre au MPO ses journaux de bord de harengs.	250 \$ d'amende et Suspension de permis de hareng pour un an /250\$ fine and a <u>1 year</u> License suspension
FA 43.4 (1) (4 x charges)	<u>Failure to complete and close a Elog before arrival</u> at wharf. / Avoir omis de compléter et fermer son journal de bord électronique avant son arrivée à quai.	750 \$ - 1,000 \$ Fine
FA 43.4 (1) (2 x charges)	<u>Failure to release snow crab bycatch</u> . / Avoir omis de remettre à l'eau des prises accidentelles de crabes des neiges.	2,500 \$ Fine



## Prosecutions result / Résultats des infractions

Section	Offence / Infraction	Penalty / Amende
FA 43.4 (1)	Possession of <u>gillnet with mesh under the legal size</u> . / Avoir à bord du bateau un filet maillant dont le maillage est inférieur à la taille légale.	750 \$ Fine
AFR 14 (1) b) (2 x charges)	<u>Using a vessel for fishing mackerel without being the designated operator</u> . / Avoir utilisé un bateau pour pêcher le maquereau sans être désigné comme l'exploitant sur le permis	750 \$ Fine
AFR 13 (1) c)	<u>Autorizing the use of one's vessel for mackerel fishing without the proper replacement autorisation</u> . / Avoir permis sans autorisation de remplacement que son bateau soit utilisé pour la pêche commerciale au maquereau.	1,500 \$ Fine







## Prosecutions result / Résultat infraction

Section	<u>Offence / Infraction</u>	Penalty / Amende
AFR 115.2	<u>Fishing with gillnet</u> for more <u>than 72 hours</u> <u>without</u> supervision / Avoir laissé des filets en pêche sans surveillance pendant plus de 72 heures.	1,000 \$ Fine
FA 36 (1)	Unlawfully leave decayed or decaying fish in any net. / A <u>illégalement</u> laissé du poisson gâté ou en putréfaction dans un filet	1,500 \$ Fine





## Enforcement issues & trends / Tendances et problème d'Application

- Untagged net / Filets sans étiquettes
- Bait being sold illegally / Appât vendu illégalement
- Reporting in the bait and commercial fisheries / Déclaration des captures dans la pêche d'appâts et commerciale
- No small fish protocol. / Pas de protocole de petit poisson
- Authorized weekly catch in the bait fishery / Quantité autorisée a la semaine dans la pêche de l'appât



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# QUESTIONS?



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## ANNEX 4



### 4T Atlantic Herring Spring Stock Review

Gulf Small Pelagics Advisory Committee  
Novembre 16, 2021

### Hareng Atlantique 4T Revue du stock de printemps

Comité consultatif des petits pélagiques du Golfe  
16 novembre 2021

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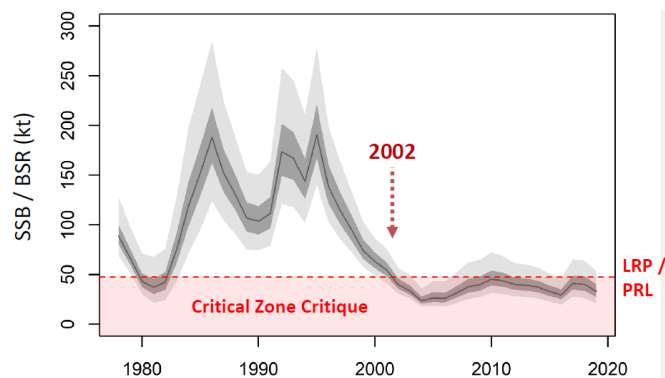


#### Spawning Stock Biomass

- Spring herring spawning stock biomass (SSB) have been under the LRP since 2002.
- Reasons: overfishing, increased natural mortality, extremely poor recruitment

#### Biomasse du stock reproducteur

- La biomasse du stock de reproducteurs de printemps (BSR) est sous le PRL depuis 2002.
- Raisons : surpêche, mortalité naturelle élevée, recrutement extrêmement faible.



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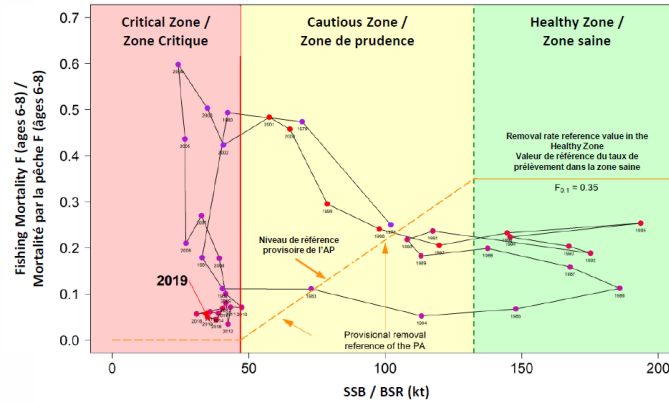


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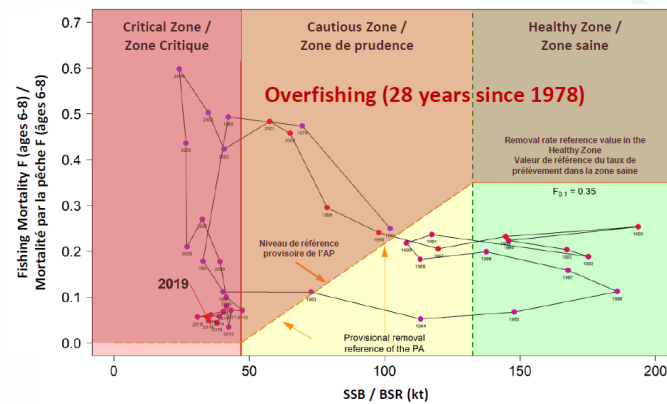


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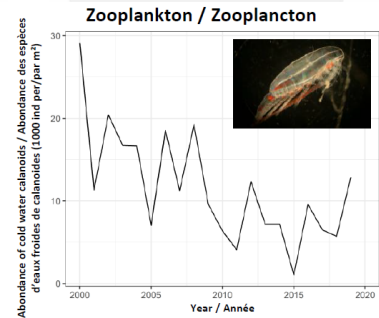
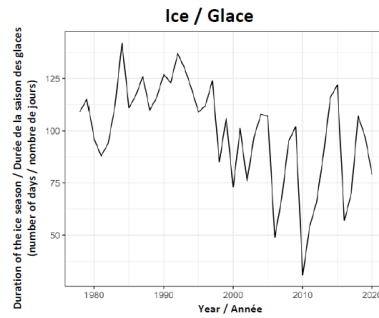
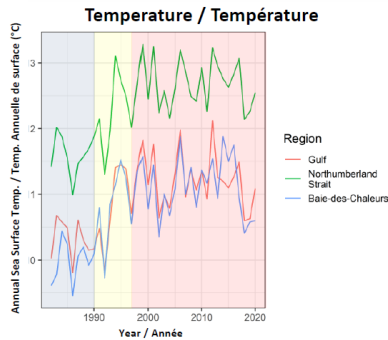


## Recruitment

- Increase in water temperature and decreased ice cover in the last 30 years.
- These factors lead to a decrease in cold water zooplankton abundance.
- 4T spring herring recruitment is positively related to cold water and cold water zooplankton.

## Recrutement

- Augmentation de la température de l'eau et diminution de la couverture de glace au cours des 30 dernières années.
- Ces facteurs ont entraîné une diminution de l'abondance des espèces de zooplancton d'eaux froides.
- Le recrutement de hareng de printemps dans 4T est positivement relié à des eaux de surface froides et à l'abondance des espèces de zooplancton d'eaux froides.



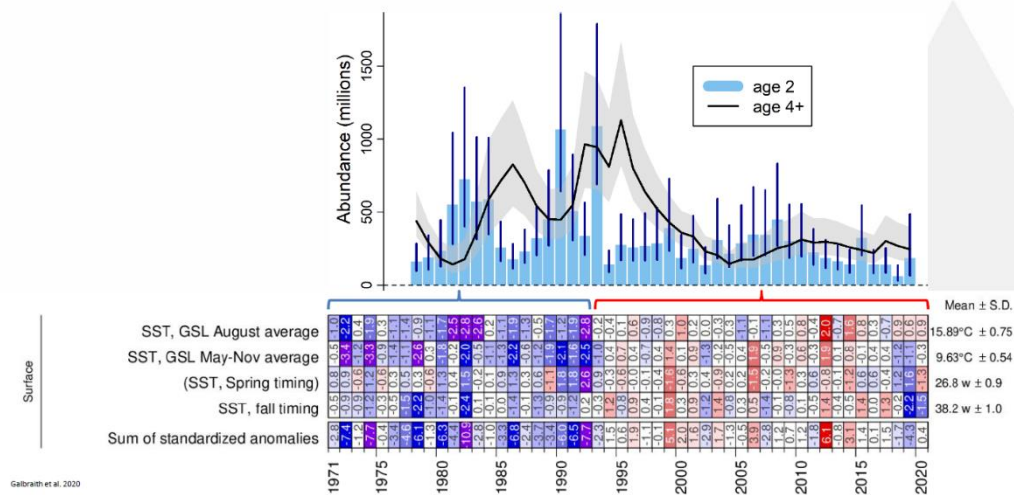
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## Recruitment

## Recrutement



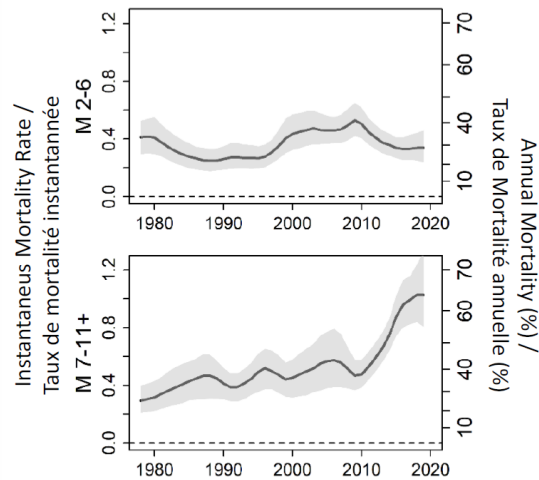
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### Natural mortality

- Natural mortality estimates for ages 2 to 6 varied between 21 % and 41 % over the time series, however natural mortality for older fish (ages 7-11+) increased since 2011 to an estimated value of 64 % in 2018 and 2019.



### Mortalité naturelle

- Les estimations de la mortalité naturelle pour les âges 2 à 6 variaient entre 21 % et 41 % au cours de la série chronologique, mais la mortalité naturelle des poissons plus âgés (âgés de 7 à 11 ans et plus) a augmenté depuis 2011 pour atteindre une valeur estimée de 64 % en 2018 et 2019.

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### Summary

- The spring herring stock component has been in the critical zone of the Precautionary Approach framework since 2002.
- The outlook for the stock has deteriorated to a fraction of its historical levels while there continues to be a directed commercial fishery (gillnet and seiner) as well as bait fishery with little reporting.
- In addition to fishing pressure the stock suffers from extremely low recruitment, high natural mortality, declining weight-at-age, and continued environmental change.
- It is very unlikely (< 8 %) that spring herring biomass will increase in short term (2021 and 2022) or long term (2029) for all TAC options being considered.
- Even in the absence of fishery removals it is very likely (> 90%) that the stock will remain in the Critical Zone.

**Next Stock Assessment on March 22-23, 2022**

### Sommaire

- La composante du stock de hareng de printemps se trouve dans la zone critique du cadre de l'approche de précaution depuis 2002.
- Les perspectives du stock se sont détériorées à une fraction de ses niveaux historiques alors qu'il y a toujours une pêche commerciale dirigée (filet maillant et senneur) ainsi qu'une pêche à l'appât avec peu de rapports.
- En plus de la pression de pêche, le stock souffre d'un recrutement très faible, d'une mortalité naturelle élevée, d'une diminution du poids selon l'âge et des changements environnementaux.
- Il est très peu probable (< 8%) que la biomasse de hareng de printemps augmente à court terme (2021 et 2022) ou à long terme (2029) pour toutes les options de TAC envisagées.
- Même en l'absence de prélèvements par la pêche, il est très probable (> 90%) que le stock restera dans la zone critique

**Prochaine évaluation du stock les 22 et 23 mars 2022**

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## Stock Status – Indices of Abundance

## État des stocks – Indice d'abondance

- Telephone survey: since 1986, to collect information on the fixed gear fishery and opinions on observed trends of abundance.
  - Fishery-independent acoustic survey: early fall since 1994, to determine the biomass of aggregations.
  - Fishery-independent gillnet indices: new in 2021, index from an experimental net fishery.
  - Fishery-dependent acoustic survey: new in 2021, to determine the biomass of aggregations.
  - Fishery-dependent commercial catch-per-unit-effort (CPUE): from fixed gear data (for the whole sGSL).
- Enquête téléphonique: depuis 1986, pour recueillir de l'information sur la pêche aux engins fixes et des avis sur les tendances observées d'abondance.
  - Relevé acoustique indépendant de la pêche: début de l'automne depuis 1994, pour déterminer la biomasse des agrégations.
  - Indices des filets maillants indépendants de la pêche: nouveau en 2021, indice d'une pêcherie avec un filet expérimental.
  - Relevé acoustique dépendant de la pêche: nouveau en 2021, pour déterminer la biomasse des agrégations.
  - Captures par unité d'effort (CPUE) de la pêche commerciale: à partir des données d'engins fixes (pour l'ensemble du sGSL).

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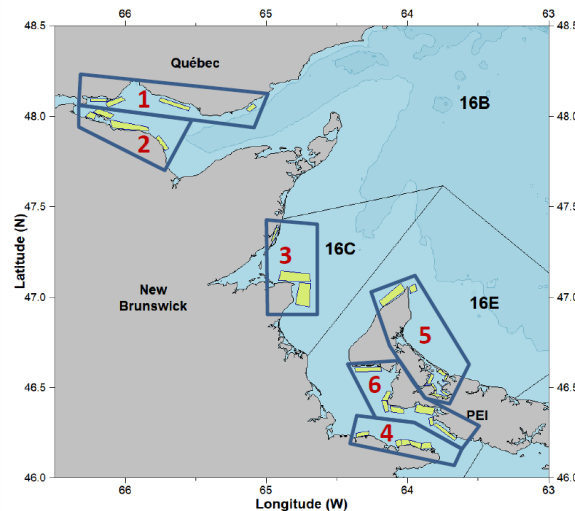


## Science surveys –Regions

## Relevés scientifiques – Régions

### Suggested Regions by Industry

- Region 1: 16B – Chaleur Bay, North side
- Region 2: 16B – Chaleur Bay, South side
- Region 3: 16C – Escuminac
- Region 4: 16E – Cap-Pelé, Cape Jourimain
- Region 5: 16E – PEI, North side
- Region 6: 16E – PEI, South side



### Régions proposées par l'industrie

- Région 1: 16B – Baie des Chaleurs, côte nord
- Région 2: 16B – Baie des Chaleurs, côte sud
- Région 3: 16C – Escuminac
- Région 4: 16E – Cap-Pelé, Cape Jourimain
- Région 5: 16E – Î.-P.-É., côte nord
- Région 6: 16E – Î.-P.-É., côte sud

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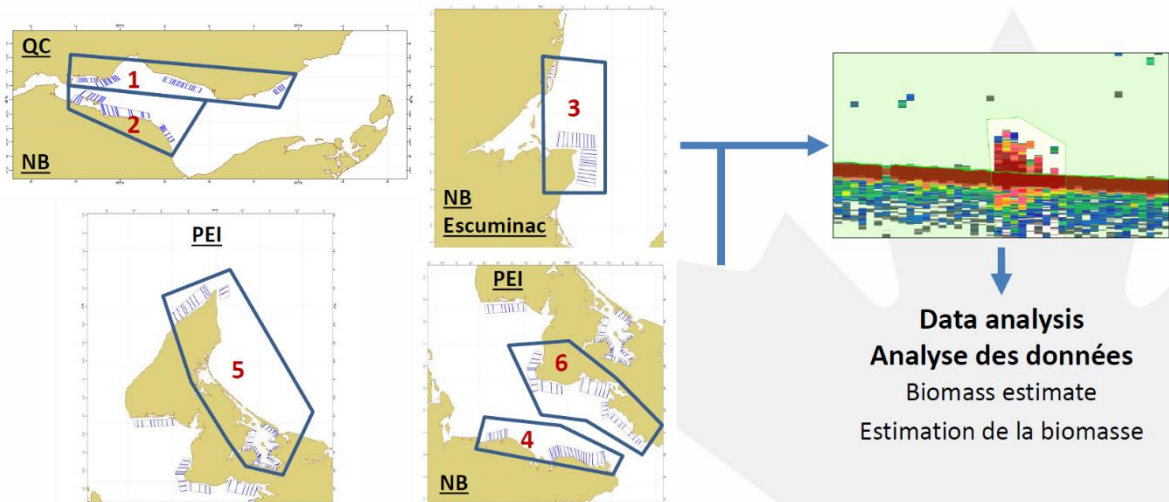
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Science surveys – Acoustic survey

Relevés scientifiques – Relevé acoustique



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Science surveys – Acoustic survey

Relevés scientifiques – Relevé acoustique

	Number of Strata	Number of Expected Surveys	Number of Transects	Total Distance (NM)	Number of Completed surveys	Number of Completed strata	% completion
Region 1	4	5	35	46	3	11	55
Region 2	4	5	28	49	3	12	60
Region 3	3	5	24	68	3	8	53
Region 4	5	5	26	46	3	15	60
Region 5	13	5	56	60	1	3	5
Region 6	7	5	38	57	3	18	51
	Nombre de strates	Nombre de relevés à compléter	Nombre de transects	Distance totale (MN)	Nombre de relevés complétés	Nombre de strates complétées	% de réalisation

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## Science surveys – Experimental nets

## Relevés scientifiques – Filets expérimentaux

	Number of Expected Surveys	Number of Completed surveys	% completion
Region 1	5	5	100
Region 2	5	5	100
Region 3	5	5	100
Region 4	5	5	100
Region 5	5	2	40
Region 6	5	4	80
	Nombre de relevés à compléter	Nombre de relevés complétés	% de réalisation

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## Science surveys – Challenges

## Relevés scientifiques – Défis

Concerns / Problèmes	Proposed Solutions / Solutions suggérées
Surveys began too late in the season Les relevés ont débutés trop tard dans la saison	Begin work before or at the same time as the spring season opens Commencer les travaux avant ou en même temps que la saison de pêche
Surveys confined to weekends is restrictive Les relevés sont restrictifs aux fins de semaine	While the spring fishery is open, need to keep weekend surveys to avoid conflicts with gear in the water. After the fishing season closes, the bait fishery is all that remains, there may be more flexibility for surveys on nights other than a weekend. Alors que la pêche printanière est ouverte, il faut garder les relevés de fin de semaine pour éviter les conflits avec les engins dans l'eau. Après la fermeture de la saison de pêche, la pêche à l'appât est tout ce qui reste, il pourrait y avoir plus de flexibilité pour les relevés les nuits en dehors des fins de semaine.
Overlap with lobster season means some fishers cannot participate the whole time Le chevauchement avec la saison du homard signifie que certains pêcheurs ne peuvent pas participer tout le temps	An earlier start to the project would minimize fishing season overlap Un démarrage plus précoce du projet minimiserait le chevauchement entre les saisons de pêche
Overlap with lobster season leads to avoidance of transects in some regions of heavy lobster fishing Le chevauchement avec la saison du homard oblige à éviter les transects dans certaines régions de pêche intensive au homard	An earlier start to the project would minimize fishing season overlap Un démarrage plus précoce du projet minimiserait le chevauchement entre les saisons de pêche

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### Science surveys – Challenges

### Relevés scientifiques – Défis

Concerns / Problèmes	Proposed Solutions / Solutions suggérées
Distance between strata too great for one fisher Distance entre les strates trop grande pour un pêcheur	Investigate dividing this work into separate regions Penser diviser ce travail en régions distinctes
Malpeque Bay too shallow; lots of gear in the way Baie Malpeque trop peu profonde; beaucoup de matériel sur le chemin	Re-examine the regions identified in Malpeque Bay to confirm whether herring do spawn in all of these areas, and which ones are not feasible due to aquaculture or depth Réexaminer les régions identifiées dans la baie de Malpeque pour confirmer si le hareng fraie dans toutes ces zones, et lesquelles ne sont pas réalisables en raison de l'aquaculture ou de la profondeur
Nets do not set correctly Les filets ne se déploient pas facilement	Provide floats to be added to the top line, and weights to be added to the bottom line Fournir des flotteurs à ajouter à la ligne du haut et des poids à ajouter à la ligne du bas
Smallest mesh panel is too thin (1 ¾" panel) Le plus petit panneau de maille est trop mince (panneau de 1 ¾")	Replace with thicker gauge mesh Remplacer par un maillage plus gros
Some transects are very shallow Certains transects sont très peu profonds	Move these transects so they do not extend as shallow; remove the regions that are too shallow. However, this may result in the inability to survey some regions identified as spawning regions by fishers because of water depth. Use side scan transducer. Déplacez ces transects afin qu'ils ne s'étendent pas en eau aussi peu profondes ; supprimer les régions qui sont trop peu profondes. Cependant, cela peut entraîner l'incapacité de couvrir certaines régions identifiées comme des régions de frai par les pêcheurs en raison de la profondeur de l'eau. Utiliser un transducteur à balayage latéral.



## ANNEX 5

### Management measures / Fishery options

### Mesures de gestion / Options de pêche

Canada

#### Stock status and management measures État du stock et les mesures de gestions

- The spring herring stock component has been in the critical zone of the Precautionary Approach (PA) framework since 2002. When a stock is in the critical zone, its status has declined to such a low level that it is considered to be in a precarious state.  
**In the critical zone, management measures must promote stock growth and removals by all human sources (e.g. directed or bait fisheries) must be kept to the lowest possible level.**
- Le stock de hareng de printemps se trouve dans la zone critique du cadre de l'approche de précaution (AP) depuis 2002. Lorsqu'un stock se trouve dans la zone critique, son état a baissé à un niveau si bas qu'il est considéré comme dans un état précaire.  
**Dans la zone critique, les mesures de gestion doivent favoriser la croissance du stock et les prélèvements de sources anthropiques (p.ex. pêcheries dirigées ou appât) doivent être maintenus au niveau le plus bas possible.**

Canada



Management measures for the herring spring fishery 2021  
Mesures de gestion durant la pêche de printemps du hareng 2021

Existing management measures	Mesures de gestion actuelles
<b>Commercial Fishery:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Maximum cumulative net length of 150 fathoms.</li><li>Weekend closure.</li><li>Weekly limit of 5,500 kg in the commercial fishery.</li><li>By-catch protocol to monitor spring spawners during the fall fishery.</li></ul> <b>Bait Fishery:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Weekly limit of 2,270 kg.</li><li>Weekend closure.</li></ul>	<b>Pêche commerciale :</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Longueur cumulative maximale des filets de 150 brasses.</li><li>Fermeture la fin de semaine.</li><li>Limite hebdomadaire de 5 500 kg.</li><li>Protocole de suivi des prises accessoires des géniteurs de printemps durant la pêche d'automne.</li></ul> <b>Pêche pour appât :</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Limite hebdomadaire de 2 270 kg.</li><li>Fermeture la fin de semaine.</li></ul>

Canada

Some other proposed management measures from stakeholders (following GSPAC February 2021 meeting)  
Quelques autres mesures de gestion proposées par les intervenants (suivant la réunion du CCPPG de février 2021)

(For discussion / pour discussion)

Management measures	Mesures de gestion
<b>Implementation of a hail-out system:</b> Not possible for 2022  <b>Limit of one licence per week (commercial or bait):</b> Or could it be that if a harvester fishes under his/her commercial license he/she would not be allowed to fish under his/her bait license for spring herring?	<b>Mise en œuvre d'un système d'appel de sortie en mer :</b> pas possible pour 2022  <b>Limite d'utilisation d'un permis par semaine (commerciale ou appât) :</b> Ou lorsqu'un détenteur de permis pêche avec un permis commercial il/elle ne serait pas autorisé de pêcher avec son permis d'appât pour le hareng de printemps?

Canada



Some other proposed management measures from stakeholders (following the rebuilding plan consultations)  
Quelques autres mesures de gestion proposées par les intervenants (suivant les consultations pour le plan de rétablissement)

(For discussion / pour discussion)

Commercial and bait fishery	Pêche commerciale et d'appât
<b>Commercial herring license attached to primary vessel (not dories):</b> <i>To reduce fishing pressure on the shallow water areas where spring herring spawning grounds are located and to address safety concerns that arise with smaller (dory size) vessels in the commercial fisheries.</i> <b>Could this be applicable to the bait fishery, do we have the same issues?</b>	<b>Bateau principal rattaché à la licence commerciale (pas de petits bateaux) :</b> <i>Réduire l'effort de pêche dans les eaux peu profondes où sont les frayères des géniteurs du hareng et aussi régler les enjeux de sécurité avec les petits bateaux impliqués dans la pêche commerciale du printemps.</i> <b>Pourrait être applicable à la pêche d'appât, avons-nous les mêmes enjeux?</b>
<b>Bait and commercial licenses only issued upon request:</b> <i>To not automatically release conditions of license to all license holders. Could be used to estimate the number of participants.</i> <b>Could it be done through National Online Licensing System (NOLS)?</b>	<b>Permis commercial et d'appât seulement émis sur demande :</b> <i>Ne pas émettre les conditions de permis automatiquement pour tous les détenteurs de permis. Peut-être utilisé pour estimer le nombre de participants.</i> <b>Peut-être fait à partir du système national d'émission de permis en ligne?</b>
<b>Same opening date for both fisheries:</b> <i>Equal opportunity to start fishing.</i> <b>Could we have a preset season for the spring herring bait fishery or could the opening be delayed?</b>	<b>Même date d'ouverture pour les 2 pêches :</b> <i>Même opportunité de débiter la pêche.</i> <b>Pourrait-on avoir une saison prédéterminée pour la pêche d'appât du hareng de printemps ou encore retarder l'ouverture?</b>

Canada

2022-2023 herring spring fishery options (commercial and bait)  
Options pour la pêche de printemps du hareng en 2022 et 2023 (commerciale et appât)

To summarize, knowing that :	En résumé, sachant que :
<b>Stock status:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The spring herring stock component has been in the critical zone since 2002.</li><li>It is very likely that spring herring will remain in the critical zone in the short term (2022) and long term (2029) irrespective of the total allowable catch (TAC) option: zero t, 250 t, 500 t or 1,250 t.</li></ul> <b>Legal framework:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The Department is subject to the Precautionary Approach (PA) framework.</li><li>New Fish Stock Provisions (FSP) in the Fisheries Act have recently come into effect.</li><li>Section 6.1 requires that the minister maintain stocks at levels necessary to promote sustainability.</li><li>Section 6.2 requires that the minister develop and implement rebuilding plans for depleted stocks.</li></ul> <b>Removals and natural mortality:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Predation by grey seals and tuna is a high source of mortality.</li><li>Environmental factors do not appear to be favorable to the recovery of the stock.</li><li>5% of the spawning stock biomass (SSB) was removed by the commercial fishing mortality in recent years.</li></ul>	<b>État du stock:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Le stock de hareng de printemps se trouve dans la zone critique depuis 2002.</li><li>Il est très probable que le hareng de printemps restera dans la zone critique à court terme (2022) et à long terme (2029), quelle que soit l'option du total admissible des captures (TAC) : zéro t, 250 t, 500 t ou 1 250 t.</li></ul> <b>Cadre législative :</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Le ministère est soumis au cadre de l'approche de précaution (AP).</li><li>Nouvelles exigences relatives aux stocks de poissons dans la loi sur les pêches sont maintenant en vigueur.</li><li>L'article 6.1 exige que le/la ministre maintienne les stocks aux niveaux requis pour promouvoir la durabilité.</li><li>L'article 6.2 exige que le/la ministre élabore et mette en œuvre des plans de rétablissement des stocks épuisés.</li></ul> <b>Prélèvements et mortalité naturelle :</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>La prédation par le phoque gris et le thon est source de mortalité élevée.</li><li>Les facteurs environnementaux semblent peu favorables au rétablissement du stock.</li><li>5% de la biomasse du stock reproducteur (BSR) est due la mortalité reliée à la pêche commerciale dans les années récentes.</li></ul>

Canada



2022-2023 herring spring fishery options (commercial and bait)  
Options pour la pêche de printemps du hareng en 2022 et 2023 (commerciale et appât)

(For discussion / pour discussion)

The question is :

Is there a herring spring fishery option (commercial and bait) that will interfere less with reproduction, egg deposition and fertilization that could eventually increase stock recruitment?

La question est :

Existe-t-il une option pour la pêche de printemps du hareng (commerciale et appât) dont l'interférence sera moindre avec la reproduction, le dépôt et la fertilisation des œufs et qui pourrait éventuellement augmenter le recrutement du stock?

Canada

2022-2023 herring spring fishery options (commercial and bait)  
Options pour la pêche de printemps du hareng en 2022 et 2023 (commerciale et appât)

(For discussion / pour discussion)

	Other / Autre option	Option 1 (TAC 500 t)	Option 2 (TAC 0 t)
Spring fishery 2022	For discussion	Delay the opening of the herring/ mackerel bait fishery to June 1 to avoid capturing spring spawners.	Closing the commercial and bait fishery and allow a small sentinel fishery
Pêche de printemps 2022	Pour discussion	Retarder l'ouverture de la pêche d'appât du hareng/maquereau au 1 juin pour éviter la capture des géniteurs de printemps.	Fermeture de la pêche commerciale et d'appât et permettre une petite pêche sentinelle
Management measures Mesures de gestion	For discussion / Pour discussion	For discussion / Pour discussion	
Precautionary Approach Approche de précaution		Not PA compliant Non conforme à l'AP	PA compliant Conforme à l'AP

Canada





Next steps	Prochaines étapes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Deadline to submit recommendations / fishery options.</li><li>• Timeline to obtain a decision.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Date limite pour soumettre les recommandations / options de pêche.</li><li>• Échéancier pour obtenir une décision.</li></ul>

## Questions et recommandations / Questions and recommendations

Thank you / Merci





## ANNEX 6



### Other small pelagics Autres petits pélagiques

Presented to / Présenté au  
Gulf Small Pelagics Advisory Committee  
Comité consultatif des petits poissons pélagiques du Golfe

November 16-17, 2021 / 16-17 novembre 2021

Canada



### 2021 Mackerel Fishery / Pêche du maquereau 2021

TAC of 4,000 t divided in 2 equal allocations of 2,000 t / TAC de 4 000 t divisé en 2 allocations égales de 2 000 t

#### 2021 landings / Débarquements 2021

	Landings (t)	
	First allocation (June 1 to August 14) Première allocation (1 <sup>er</sup> juin au 14 août)	Second allocation (August 15 to November 10) Deuxième allocation (15 août au 10 novembre)
NFLD / T-N-L	75	526
Maritimes	720	475
Gulf / Golfe	1,133	688
Quebec / Québec	287	325
Total	2,215	2,014

Preliminary data (November 12, 2021) / Données préliminaires (12 novembre 2021)

Canada



### 2021 Capelin landings/ Débarquement de capelan 2021

Year/ <u>Année</u>	Landings (t) / <u>Débarquements</u> (t)
2021	1,921
2020	2,405
2019	890
2018	490
2017	19

Preliminary data / Données préliminaires

Canada



### Mackerel Fishery 2022 Pêche du maquereau 2022

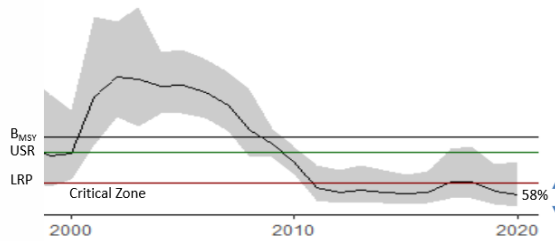


GESPAC November 16-17, 2021  
CCPPG, le 16-17 novembre 2021

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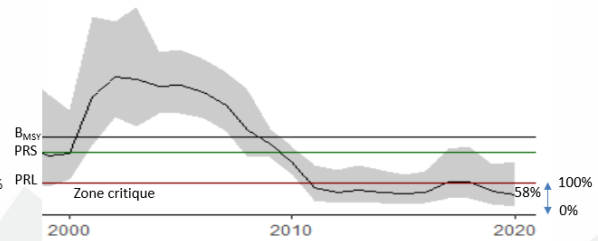


### Spawning Stock Biomass



- The spawning stock biomass is the lowest ever observed, at 58% of the limit reference point (LRP), and has been in or near the Critical Zone for the past decade, according to the Precautionary Approach.

### Biomasse du stock reproducteur



- La biomasse du stock reproducteur (BSR) est la valeur la plus basse observée et se situait à 58% du point de référence limite (PRL) en 2020. Le stock est proche ou sous le PRL depuis la dernière décennie selon l'approche de précaution.

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- The scientific analyses indicate that the Atlantic mackerel stock is overfished, the age structure has collapsed, and fishing mortality is a significant influence on stock status.
- There is no sign of any notable recruitment event in recent years.
- DFO published the Atlantic mackerel Rebuilding Plan in 2020 with a short-term objective of maintaining a positive growth in spawning stock biomass. Based on recent science, this objective is not being met.

- Les analyses scientifiques indiquent que le stock de maquereau de l'Atlantique est surexploité, que la structure d'âge s'est effondrée et que la mortalité par pêche a une influence significative sur l'état du stock.
- Il n'y a aucun signe notable de recrutement dans les dernières années.
- Le MPO a publié le Plan de rétablissement du maquereau de l'Atlantique en 2020 avec un objectif à court terme de maintenir une croissance positive de la biomasse du stock reproducteur. D'après les données scientifiques récentes, cet objectif n'est pas atteint.

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## 2022 mackerel fishery / Pêche du maquereau 2022

- The Department continues to actively review the management regime for Atlantic mackerel and assess the need for further conservation measures aimed at better monitoring and reporting and a potential reduction in removals.
- No new science advice for 2022. Next assessment in 2023.
- The Atlantic Mackerel Advisory Committee will meet in early February to discuss management measures for the 2022 fishing season.
- A decision for the 2022 season is due by the end of February, in advance of the opening of the spring fishery in the Maritimes on April 1.
- Le ministère continue d'examiner activement le régime de gestion du maquereau de l'Atlantique et d'évaluer la nécessité de nouvelles mesures de conservation visant à améliorer la surveillance et les rapports et à réduire potentiellement les prélèvements.
- Aucun nouvel avis scientifique pour 2022. Prochaine évaluation en 2023.
- Le comité consultatif sur le maquereau de l'Atlantique se réunira début février pour discuter des mesures de gestion pour la saison de pêche 2022.
- Une décision pour la saison 2022 doit être prise d'ici la fin février, avant l'ouverture de la pêche de printemps dans les Maritimes le 1er avril.

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## Update lookbook / Mise à jour du journal de bord

- Herring and Mackerel commercial fisheries
- Herring / Mackerel bait fishery
- Pêche commerciale du hareng et maquereau
- Pêche d'appât du hareng et maquereau

**Note :** The lookbook will eventually replace the bait monitoring document.

**Note:** Le journal de bord remplacera éventuellement le document du suivi de la pêche d'appât.

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## ANNEX 7

### Summary of recommendations/comments for the spring herring fishery in the Gulf Region (December 2021)

Name of organizations	Fishing Areas	Summary of recommendations
Regroupement des Pêcheurs professionnels du sud de la Gaspésie (RPPSG)	16B 16C 16E	<p>Commercial fishery :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 500 t minimum TAC</li> <li>• Improve management measures for 2022               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Maintain last year's weekly limit of 12,125 pounds.</li> <li>2. Maintain weekend closures.</li> <li>3. Opening dates should be set as soon as the ice is gone.</li> <li>4. No further management changes until new scientific review in 2024.</li> </ol> </li> </ul> <p>Bait fishery :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation of mandatory electronic logbooks.</li> <li>• Establish a new rule that a fisherman who has reached his weekly limit in the commercial fishery will not be allowed to fish for bait until the following Sunday.</li> <li>• No other management changes for the next 3 years.</li> </ul> <p>Scientific work :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Get more data on this fish stock.</li> <li>• This is a step towards a better understanding of the dynamics of spring herring populations and towards better management.</li> </ul> <p>Rebuilding plan :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A targeted action plan on seal overpopulation.</li> <li>• A fleet buyback/rationalization program.</li> <li>• New science to improve stock assessments.</li> <li>• Innovating in the field of herring resource development.</li> <li>• Include last year's management actions in the rebuilding plan.</li> <li>• Maintain a minimum fishing presence on the water.</li> </ul>
Maritimes Fishermen's Union (MFU) (Martin Mallet)	16B & 16C 16E	<p>Commercial fishery :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 500 t minimum TAC</li> <li>• Improve management measures for 2022 :               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Maintain the 12,125 pounds weekly limit.</li> <li>2. Maintain the weekend closures.</li> <li>3. Opening dates should set as soon as the ice is gone.</li> <li>4. No other management changes until further science review in 2024.</li> </ol> </li> </ul> <p>Bait fishery :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation of electronic logbooks in the Gulf Region</li> <li>• Establish the rule that a fisher who reaches his weekly limit in the commercial fishery cannot fish for bait until the following Sunday.</li> </ul>





Name of organizations	Fishing Areas	Summary of recommendations
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No further management changes for the next 3 years.</li> </ul> <p>Science work :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue collaborating with science on the improvement of survey area protocols (acoustic survey program).</li> </ul> <p>Rebuilding plan :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Targeted action plan on the overpopulation of seals.</li> <li>Buy-back/fleet rationalization program (herring licenses not connected to a lobster license) with industry consultation.</li> <li>New science for improving stock assessments and for better understanding of herring ecology.</li> <li>Innovate in the field of herring resource enhancement.</li> <li>Include recent year's management measures as part of the rebuilding plan.</li> <li>Must maintain a minimum fishing presence on the water to preserve minimum cultural and economic aspects.</li> </ul>
<p>Prince Edward Island Fishermen's Association (PEIFA) (Laura Ramsay)</p>	<p>16C 16E</p>	<p>Commercial fishery :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>500 t minimum TAC</li> <li>While 1,250 t commercial quota remains a conservative approach we are aiming to target in the near future, a 500 t TAC for the coming season at less than 1.25% of the stock spawning biomass removal rate is a compromised short-term measure.</li> <li>15 nets per fisher while maintaining a 5,500 kg (12,125 pounds) weekly limit.</li> <li>Maintaining the hail-in system.</li> <li>Commercial licences be attached to primary vessel (not dories) in effort to reduce fishing pressure in shallow waters.</li> <li>Opening date of the commercial fishery : one week before spring lobster fishing begins in an effort to maximize on the price.</li> </ul> <p>Rebuilding plan :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collaboratively develop a targeted action plan on the overpopulation of seals with realistic objectives and measurable outcomes.</li> <li>Improved localized data collection throughout the Gulf.</li> <li>A fleet buyback/rationalization program.</li> </ul> <p>Bait fishery :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TAC for bait would be above the 500 t commercial TAC</li> <li>Maintain 3 nets and weekly limit of 2,270 kg</li> <li>Weekend closure change to Saturday-Monday</li> <li>Herring bait fishery opening April 1<sup>st</sup></li> <li>Request that bait fishery opens before and after the commercial spring herring fishery is open, but bait remains closed while the commercial spring herring fishery is open. This measure is an effort to assist C&amp;P and DFO with monitoring efforts.</li> </ul>



Name of organizations	Fishing Areas	Summary of recommendations
Oceans North (Katie Schleit)	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set the 2022 total allowable catch (TAC) as low as possible, ideally at zero, in line with the mandate to rebuild fish populations and follow advice related to the precautionary approach framework and proposed rebuilding regulations;</li> <li>• Regulate the bait fishery (if it is allowed to continue) as part of a TAC and put in place better monitoring, control and surveillance;</li> <li>• Finalize the rebuilding plan in order to guide the management of stocks in the critical zone;</li> <li>• Continue and expand the work on implementing an ecosystem approach to fisheries management (with a particular focus on predator/prey interactions) and use this information in decision making.</li> </ul>
Ecology Action Center (Sebastián Pardo)	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TAC set at 0 t for the commercial fishery</li> <li>• Catches under bait licences must be fully reported and monitored</li> </ul>
Produits Belle Baie Ltée (Joe Foulem)	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 500 t TAC</li> </ul>
Prince Edward Island Department of Fisheries and Communities (Dave MacEwen)	All	<p>Commercial fishery :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 500 t TAC (exclusive of the bait fishery landings)</li> <li>• Management measures for 2022 :               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Opening date 1 week prior to the spring lobster season.</li> <li>2. Weekly catch limit of 5,500 kg.</li> </ol> </li> </ul> <p>Bait fishery :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bait fishery opening in April that does not operate during the same time as the commercial fishery allowing DFO C&amp;P to best carry out their enforcement activities.</li> <li>• Weekly limit of 2,270 kg (daily limit of 454 kg per licence holder)</li> <li>• Weekend closure from Saturday to Monday.</li> </ul> <p>General comments :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rebuilding of the stock is a priority and if status quo is not working, other measures must be implemented. At a minimum, must have a fishery that can produce bait for our trap fisheries</li> <li>• Discussions to address the high abundance of seals.</li> <li>• Further research on spring herring such as acoustic surveys on spawning beds and offer our assistance.</li> <li>• Improve landings information during this fishery as it will aid DFO Science in its attempts to model this species.</li> <li>• Continue working towards finalizing a rebuilding plan.</li> <li>• Need for licenses to be attached to fishermen's primary vessels and not to small dories that are able to place high fishing pressure on fish spawning in very shallow waters.</li> </ul>
Barry Group Inc. (David Barry)	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The fishing mortality should be stated accurately, clearly and comparatively in order of importance, after grey seals and/or tuna and environmental conditions.</li> </ul>



Name of organizations	Fishing Areas	Summary of recommendations
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The TAC should be set back to 1,250 t.</li><li>• With the recent reduction, 500 t is now the 'ceiling', and management is recommending 0 t as the only 'PA compliant' option. Nonetheless, many members stated that it is too early to evaluate the outcomes of this recent reduction.</li><li>• Precautionary Approach reference levels need to be reviewed.</li><li>• Harvesters from all provinces are recommending more survey effort and/or reporting how much fish they are seeing and catching, relative to past years.</li><li>• We are not convinced by explanations from science (and managers) that increased sign of herring and faster landings are due only to herring's 'aggregating' nature (while the stock condition remains 'critical').</li><li>• All efforts should be made to reduce and eliminate I.U.U. fishing, particularly given the stated "severe misreporting" with respect to the bait fishery. There should be zero tolerance for continued misreporting in this fishery, or any fishery. Efforts should be made to equalize monitoring effort across different fleet sectors.</li></ul>
New Brunswick Department of Aquaculture, Agriculture and Fisheries (Annie Ferguson)	ALL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) must improve their stock evaluation by increasing the survey frequency/areas and improving survey net design, to better manage and understand the decline in the stock.</li><li>• Recommending the draft rebuilding plan that was due in 2021 be completed as soon as possible and include measures to address predation and environmental impacts. In addition, industry is provided sufficient time to review and provide comments.</li><li>• Experience and information sharing from the fishing industry is critically important in understanding the stock behavior.</li><li>• Recommending a minimum TAC for an index/commercial fishery for Spring 2022 dictated by DFO scientific division in order to adequately evaluate the impact on the stock biomass.</li><li>• Recommending that licence issued for bait fishery should be better monitored and limited.</li><li>• Support the implementation of paper logs as a first step in improving the reporting of landings in the fishery. E-logs and a Hail system should be considered when available.</li></ul>