2018 AGM: Our AGM was held on Sunday, January 28th at 7pm at the Mabou Parish Hall. This meeting was well attended with nearly half our membership in attendance. Thank you to all who were present. One of the biggest items of discussion was the carapace size increase. Given that the majority in attendance were in favour of continuing the increase to 82.5mm, but over 2 years instead of all at once this year, Jordan has submitted the request to DFO to extend the intended increase to 82.5mm. The request asks for permission to increase to 81.7mm this season (2018) with an increase to 82.5mm for the 2019 season. It will be posted as soon as we receive a reply to our request.

I**nformation Session**: On January 16th, Leroy MacEachern came to the Mabou Fire Hall to provide some information regarding the carapace size increase to 82.5mm scheduled for this coming season. The purpose of this session was for Leroy to provide accurate information that fishers can use to make a decision on whether to increase to 82.5mm or not. This information session was very well attended with over 40 fishers in attendance.   
​Mr. MacEachern provided data on landings, size increases, and what has happened, on average, in other areas who have increased their carapace size.  
​There was discussion at length from both sides; those who want to continue the increase to 82.5mm and those who want to remain at 81mm.  
​It was agreed that a vote must be held to be clear what the majority of the membership wishes to do. However, the **content** of the ballot must be decided.   
​It was agreed that this will be discussed and decided upon at the upcoming AGM on January 28th.

**Atlantic Large Pelagics Advisory Committee Meeting:** The 2018 meeting has been scheduled for February 21-22 in the Nova Scotia Ballroom of the Halifax Marriot Harbourfront Hotel, Halifax, NS. The meeting will begin at 9:00am on February 21st and will be from 9:00am to 1:00pm on February 22nd.

[**ALPACM Details**](https://www.invernesssouth.com/uploads/1/8/2/9/18294681/atlanticlargepelagicsacm.pdf)

**Storm Damage:** The province is trying to get a better understanding of how this latest storm may have impacted the seafood industry in its ability to conduct its business. This includes understanding the situation locally as well as on a provincial scale.  
  
It would be greatly appreciated if you can let Nicole know if you are aware of any damage in your area related to infrastructure such as community and private wharves, slipways, processing facilities, other commercial fishery-related buildings, gear, vessels. Photos are always an asset if available.  
  
Her department may share such information with the Provincial Emergency Management Office (EMO) who use these reports to help preliminary assessment of provincial damage. It is important to note that this is not a commitment from Nicole on behalf of the province to provide funding assistance. You can contact Nicole at Nicole.Sampson@novascotia.ca

**​**​**Wheelhouse Safety Logbooks:** The Nova Scotia Fisheries Sector Council and the Fisheries Safety Association of Nova Scotia have created a Wheelhouse Safety Logbook. This logbook contains place to record important information such as Captains Standing Orders, Emergency contact and equipment information, safety drills, and maintenance logs. As well, with information from both the NS Department of Labour and Advanced Education and Transport Canada, there are sections on Vessel Safety Requirements and Safety procedures, and a final section with important safety information. These logbooks are being provided free of charge. Inverness South is attempting to arrange to have a copy available for each of our members to receive at our AGM.

**​**​**Commercial Mackerel Landings:**​Commercial mackerel landings for the 2017 season are currently estimated at 9,323 tonnes.    
Given that commercial mackerel landing have slowed considerably, the Department will discontinue sending updated mackerel landing to AMAC each week.  
Updated year-end landings will be provided at the AMAC face to face to face meeting that will occur in late March 2018.

**News:** Canada and European Union have brokered a deal that gets rid of tariffs on Canadian lobster exports. Click the link to read:

[**Canada/EU trade deal**](https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.cbc.ca%2Fnews%2Fcanada%2Fnova-scotia%2Fcanada-europe-lobster-exports-united-states-1.4453256&h=ATPUUql9rCIUY2olVit59om8T-v9Q01NvdD3-edkqBRThXq5UV9b4y9ta9fnR3mBXpS2dmNv41qpyFWbuzPk-bLORmsghYpbNklcVXPIe0xflTb1gdIxIUzxku6Tcpxy32DsnMmEOr7Q7sJ1M52B9NUHVA-SOs-1U2QR-zluRYjP5VLmkomdlfikfLgt7nXotbqabeJzgSMVfuaGlGlYRSGVSdDp184z3SkE2ACjAkgr2oB5pgg_GcF45NXZinG6ATuwKJ3PKJJdFnotgHUzYj7L-z7cRBLa)

**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:

[**DFO's Role**](https://www.invernesssouth.com/uploads/1/8/2/9/18294681/dfos_review_of_northern_pulp_dec_2017.pdf)

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. 

[**Snow Crab Industry Recommendations**](https://www.invernesssouth.com/uploads/1/8/2/9/18294681/2017_snow_crab_-_narw_mitigation_measures_proposals__summary__bilingual.pdf)

**Exchanging Survival Suits**: If necessary, survival suits have to be exchanged at one of the Vernon D'eon locations in either North Sydney or Pictou.

​**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:

[**Fleet Planning Board Website**](https://fleetplanningboard.ca/)

**Canadian Marine Advisory Council**: Jordan is currently in Ottawa attending the Canadian Marine Advisory Council meetings. These meetings are dealing with Coast Guard Regulations. As well, members of the Fleet Planning Board who are in Ottawa met with the Ministry of the Environment officials regarding the pulp mill in Pictou's plan to put a pipeline into the gulf.

**Survival Suits and EPERBs**: Are currently being distributed to fishers by several volunteers from each area.

**2017 Commercial Bluefin Tuna Fishery Gulf Nova Scotia**:  
Antigonish (Nova Scotia) – Fisheries and Oceans Canada wishes to advise the commercial Bluefin tuna licence holders in Gulf Nova Scotia (GNS) that the fishing season has been extended until **18:00 hrs, Saturday, December 16, 2017.**  
Fish harvesters who wish to continue their fishing activities beyond December 2, 2017 will need to obtain new licence conditions. Amended conditions of licence will be released and available through the National Online Licencing System (NOLS) for GNS licence holders.  
For more information:  
Alan Dwyer  
A / Chief, Resource Management  
Gulf Nova Scotia  
Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
Antigonish, NS  
902-735-7114

**Atlantic Mackerel Notice to Harvesters for November 20th, 2017**: Please note that upon further review, commercial catches In the Atlantic mackerel fishery are 9,191 tonnes. The Department will issue variation orders to open the commercial mackerel fishery in all mackerel fishing areas as of 6:00 am Atlantic Standard Time on November 21st, 2017. The department will continue to monitor commercial mackerel landings on a daily basis. Please be advised that the commercial mackerel fishery could be closed with short notice.

**​**Atlantic Mackerel Notice To Fishers: Please be advised that the department has issued a variation order to close the commercial mackerel fishery in all mackerel fishing areas as of 6:00am Atlantic Standard Time on November 16, 2017 for conservation purposes as commercial landings are near or have reached the Total Allowable Catch of 10,000 tonnes. ​

**GNS Bluefin Tuna Fishery Extension**: The Gulf Nova Scotia Tuna season has been extended until December 2, 2017

**Reminder of Life Raft Deal  through the Fleet Planning Board**: They have secured a quote from a company in New Brunswick for any of our members who needs to purchase a life raft. Anyone who wishes to take advantage of the quoted price, you must deal directly with Jonathan Gagne from Enterprises Shippagan LTD cell phone 1-506-888-0924 if you wish to make a purchase.  Click the link below to see the quote:

[**Life Raft Quote**](https://www.invernesssouth.com/uploads/1/8/2/9/18294681/liferaftquote.pdf)

**L​ooking For Volunteers:** The Fleet Planning Board will be handing out the suits and EPIRBs soon and we need someone from each wharf who would be willing to hand them out. Same idea as with the PFDs, you would be provided the list and items for each fisher at your wharf and would be responsible for handing them out. Please let me know asap if you are interested in helping out.

**Received from DFO regarding the Implementation of Coral and Sponge Conservation Areas in the Estuary and Gulf of St. Lawrence:**Good day,  
The Honorable Dominic LeBlanc, Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard and the Honorable Catherine McKenna, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, [announced](https://www.canada.ca/en/fisheries-oceans/news/2017/10/canada_reaches_important5marineconservationmilestone.html) that Canada has now surpassed our target to protect 5% of our oceans and coastlines by 2017.  
A map showing [marine refuges](http://dfo-mpo.gc.ca/oceans/documents/oeabcm-amcepz/marineshelters-refugesmarins-eng.pdf) across the country that helped to achieve this goal is available on the website <http://dfo-mpo.gc.ca/oceans/maps-cartes/conservation-eng.html>. These [refuges](http://dfo-mpo.gc.ca/oceans/oeabcm-amcepz/refuges/index-eng.html) were created thanks to close collaboration with partners and stakeholders.  
In the Estuary and Gulf of St. Lawrence bioregion, [11 new marine refuges](http://www.qc.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/golfe-gulf/images/ZONES%20IDENTIFI%C3%89ES_EN_20171024-Albers.pdf) will make a lasting contribution to marine conservation in Canada. They aim to protect cold-water coral and sponge communities and by prohibiting the use of bottom-contact fishing gear. Fisheries management measures will be implemented in this regard in December 2017.  
Additional information on the 11 new marine refuges that will be implemented in the Gulf of St. Lawrence is available at <http://www.qc.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/golfe-gulf/coraux-eng.html>. Maps representing the coral and sponges conservation areas overlapped with the average annual landings and information of each one of the 11 marine refuges are also available.  
For more information please contact Monik Richard by email at  Oceans-GLF@dfo-mpo.gc.ca   
Mireille Chiasson  
Regional Manager, Oceans / Gestionnaire régional, Océans  
​Oceans Management Section / Section de la gestion des océans  
Fisheries and Oceans / Pêches et Océans   
Moncton, NB

**GNS Summer Halibut Fishery Update for October 30, 2017:**The preliminary landings  from the last opening (October 13 to October 28, 2017)  are 5.95 t.  There is approximately  2.6 t remaining of the GNS Summer Halibut fishery quota.  There will be no additional openings in 2017 and the remaining quota will be carried forward to the 2018 season.

**Canada reaches important 5% marine conservation milestone:**On October 28, 2017, the Honourable Dominic LeBlanc, Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard and the Honourable Catherine McKenna, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, will announce completion of Canada’s interim target of 5% protection of marine and coastal areas. Through this achievement, more than 300,000 square kilometers of Canada’s three oceans are protected through the establishment of marine protected areas and marine refuges.   
 Achieving this milestone is the result of collaboration and support from provincial and territorial governments, Indigenous groups, fishery groups, environmental organizations and other stakeholders.   
 ​For further information, visit  [http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/index-eng.htm](http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/index-eng.htm" \t "_blank)

**Atlantic Fish Fund Meeting:**  
​The Gulf Nova Scotia Area hosted an information session on the Atlantic Fish Fund on Friday, October 27, 2017 from 11:15am to 1:00pm at the Claymore Conference Centre in Antigonish.  
The presentation slides are available to view by clicking the link below:

[**Atlantic Fish Fund Presentation**](https://www.invernesssouth.com/uploads/1/8/2/9/18294681/aff_presentation_4.4.ppt)

**Tuna Update**:   
DMP report is showing tuna landings to October 26, 2017.  
**2017 Quota (in tonne)47.595**  
**TOTAL landed (lbs)61416.09**  
**Total landed (kgs) 28023**  
**Percent of Quota Landed 58.878**  
**Average Weight (lbs)596.2727**  
**Number of Tuna Tags Issued (out of 183 available)167**  
**Total landed (in tonne)28.0232**  
**Average weight (kgs)272.0699**  
**Number of Tuna Landed103**  
**Total Remaining (in tonne)19.5718**  
   
 ​

**ITQ Vote Results: From Glenn MacKenzie** - Votes were 71 for status quo and 26 for ITQ.   
To sum up this process: We had a member at our AGM wanting to move to an ITQ process for our fleet and made a presentation for it. There were other members wanting more information so we asked DFO to host an information session for all license holders, which they did in July with a strong turnout.  At that meeting it was agreed to send out a ballot to every license holder, with two options. One was to remain status quo and the other was to start the process of switching to an ITQ system. The vote was handed by a third party (the Province). We allowed almost a month for the ballots to be returned and it was agreed at the DFO meeting that a 2/3 support was required to pass for the ITQ system. As mentioned above 71 votes for status quo and 26 for ITQ. So out of 135 eligible ballots we had 97 which is a great turn out for this topic which is now closed.



**Canada's Largest Commercial Marine Event a Near Sell-Out; Online Registration Now Open: Registration** for visitors who are planning to attend this key industry event is now open. Convenient online registration is available for only $5.00 at [www.FCWC.ca](http://www.fcwc.ca/). Pre-registration lets visitors save money (the price increases to $15.00 at the door) and fast-track their entrance to the show floor.   
 Nominations are also now being accepted for the **Atlantic Canada Marine Industries Hall of Fame**. The newest group of inductees will be honoured at the show.  
Visit [www.FCWC.ca](http://www.fcwc.ca/attend/#halloffame) for the nomination form and additional details on this special recognition, which was developed by the Navigator magazine in partnership with Master Promotions Ltd., the show’s producer, to pay a lasting tribute to those who have made valuable contributions in any sector of the marine industry.   
 For complete show details, visit [www.FCWC.ca](http://www.fcwc.ca/) and follow the show on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/FishWorkboatCan/) and [Twitter](https://twitter.com/fishworkboatcan).   
 **SHOW INFORMATION**  
 Hours:   
Friday, January 26th from 10:00 am - 5:00 pm  
Saturday, January 27th from 10:00 am - 4:00 pm  
   
Location:  
Moncton Coliseum Complex  
377 Killam Drive, Moncton, NB  
   
 **MEDIA INQUIRIES:**   
  
Shawn Murphy, Show Manager  
Master Promotions Ltd.  
smurphy@mpltd.ca  
1-888-454-7469  
   
Kate Stilwell, Marketing & Operations Manager  
Master Promotions Ltd.   
kstilwell@mpltd.ca   
1-888-454-7469

[**www.FCWC.ca**](http://www.FCWC.ca)

**2017 Commercial Bluefin Tuna Additional Tags**:  Fisheries and Oceans Canada wishes to advise Gulf Nova Scotia  
(GNS) tuna licence holders that upon review of the landings, 51 tuna have been landed up to October 15, 2017.  This has resulted in approximately 14.3 t or 30% of the 2017 GNS Fleet’s quota being captured. After assessment of the landings and with the addition of 3.178 t from the Mexican quota allocated to the GNS fleet, 32 additional tags will now be made available continuing with the 2017 Tuna Tag Revolving List. Those eligible for one of these additional tags will be contacted by DFO.  
  
Tags will be available for pick up at the Gulf Nova Scotia Area Office in Antigonish on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm or by appointment by calling 1-855-634-2355 or by emailing GulfInfoGolfe@dfo-mpo.gc.ca.

[**Tuna Notice To Fishers RE: Extra Tags**](https://www.invernesssouth.com/uploads/1/8/2/9/18294681/mects-_3838020-v1-noticeto_fishharvesters_gns_additional_tags_october_17_2017.doc)

**Lobster Council of Canada Meeting**: This meeting was held October 4th, 2017 in Moncton, NB. Click the link below to read the report:

[**Meeting Report**](https://www.invernesssouth.com/uploads/1/8/2/9/18294681/meeting_report_oct._4_2017_lcc_for_release.pdf)

**Scallop Fishing Area 24**: Fishing season: November 1, 2017 to December 15, 2017.  The fishery will take place between 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. daily, and will be closed on Sundays. Click the link below for the Conservation harvesting plan:

[**CHP - Scallop**](https://www.invernesssouth.com/uploads/1/8/2/9/18294681/2017_scallops_sfa_24_notice_to_fish_harvesters.pdf)

**Fisheries Safety Association of Nova Scotia:** The Fisheries Safety Association in part with the Are You Ready program is pleased to announce their participation in helping the industry with the new Transport Canada Regulations.  
​Beginning September 4th they will be visiting communities and wharves throughout the province and helping Owners and Captains implement "Safety Pouches" for each vessel.  
​These Safety Pouches have inside: On-board Familiarization & Training Checklists, NS OHS Act & Regulations, Transport Canada Fishing Vessel Safety Regulations (vessel size depending), Written Safety Procedures and a Wheelhouse Safety Logbook.  
​The Safety Pouches will be delivered by request, they will go through the Safety Pouch with you on site and explain and answer any questions you may have. During this time, they will also be assisting you by filling out the Written Safety Procedures and other documentation found inside the Safety Pouch.  
​If you would like more information or to schedule a Safety Pouch delivery for your vessel, please contact them at: info@fisheriessafety.ca or (902) 233-5887.  
​For a schedule of safety procedures and some frequently asked questions regarding the Safety Pouches, click the links below:  
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| --- | --- |
| [**Schedule**](https://www.invernesssouth.com/uploads/1/8/2/9/18294681/fall_schedule_safety_procedures.pdf) | [**Questions and Answers**](https://www.invernesssouth.com/uploads/1/8/2/9/18294681/safety_procedures_pouch_question_and_answer.pdf) |

**GNS Summer Halibut Fishery**: DFO has requested a Variation Order to open the GNS Summer halibut fishery daily from  6:00 am to 6:00 pm,  Wednesday, September 27 through to Saturday, October 7, 2017.    There is approximately 11 t remaining from the GNS Summer halibut fishery quota.

**Lobster Fisher Charged after death of crewmember in Shelburne County:** This is an important example of what can happen when the Occupational Health and Safety regulations are not followed. The article lists several things that this fisher is charged with failing to do; things all fishers are supposed to be doing on board their vessels in order to avoid being held responsible in case of an accident.

[**Article**](http://www.thecoastguard.ca/news/local/2017/9/18/occupational-health-and-safety-act-charges-laid-following-death-.html)

**Note to Summer Halibut Fishery**: New Conditions of Licence for the GNS Summer halibut fishery were released yesterday evening increasing the number of hooks permitted from 1000 to 1500.   
 **Please ensure you have the correct Conditions of Licence as this was the second amendment made yesterday.**

**Mackerel Conference Call Summary**:   
The conference call was held on Thursday, August 24th. Some main points from this call:  
- The main concern of those who took part was to increase the TAC. However, it doesn’t look as though this will happen.  
- Many who participated in the call were upset with the TAC and with the way DFO handles distribution.  
- The Canadian quota is 10,000 metric ton.  
- Over 50% of this quota is already caught.  
- DFO is proposing to release a quota update every Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday.  
- It is advised that any fisher who plans on freezing bait harvest it as soon as possible.

**Atlantic Fisheries Fund**: On March 10th, Fisheries and Oceans Canada announced an investment of $325 million in the fish and seafood sector. Together with the Atlantic Provinces, we are pleased to announce that the Atlantic Fisheries Fund (AFF) is now open for business. Along with provincial contributions, the fund now totals over $400 million.  In the coming weeks and months, we will engage with Indigenous groups and stakeholders, including industry, NGOs, and the science and academic communities. We will continue this dialogue throughout the life of the program to help guide investment priorities, and identify opportunities and potential partners.  
 The fund will help advance a more sustainable and prosperous fish and seafood sector by focusing on the following pillars in Atlantic Canada:  
 o   **Innovation:** to support research and development of new innovations that contribute to sustainability of the fish and seafood sector, and to create partnerships and networks that aim to promote and encourage innovations in the sector;  
 o   **Infrastructure:** to adapt new technologies, processes, or equipment to improve the effectiveness and sustainability of the fish and seafood sector; and,  
 o   **Science** **Partnerships:** to help better understand our scientific knowledge of the North Atlantic marine environment and the related changing oceanic conditions.  
 The AFF will invest primarily in the Atlantic Provinces through the first three pillars.  Earlier this summer, at the Canadian Council of Fisheries and Aquaculture Ministers meeting in Whitehorse, Yukon, Minister LeBlanc announced that $30 million of the federal funds under the AFF will be used for a market access and development pillar, with funding to be made available to all Provinces and Territories across Canada. This program will soon be developed nationally.  
 Through this collaboration, we will maximize emerging opportunities to make this industry more marketable, innovative, productive and sustainable.  
 Please share this exciting news with anyone you feel might be interested in the fund.  
 For more information, please visit our website: [http://atlanticfisheriesfund.ca](http://atlanticfisheriesfund.ca/) or dial 1-844-795-9718.  
 *Serge Doucet*  
*Regional Director General, Gulf Region*  
*Fisheries and Oceans Canada* | Government of Canada  
 and  
 Mary-Ellen Valkenier  
A/Regional Director General, Maritimes Region   
Fisheries and Oceans Canada | Government of Canada

**Rock Crab LFA 26B and Toad Crab Fisheries**: DFO wishes to advise there will be no opening of the toad crab fishery for 2017, or of the rock crab fishery in LFA 26B in 2017.

**Rock Crab Fishery Update in LFA 26A:** Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) wishes to inform rock crab fish harvesters fishing in Lobster Fishing Area (LFA) 26A that the section of the fishing area at a depth greater than 20 fathoms that has been closed to the rock crab fishery will remain closed for the 2017 season to prevent future incidents with North Atlantic Right Whales in the Gulf of St. Lawrence.  
   
As a reminder, licence holders are asked to report all observations of dead or injured marine mammals by calling 1-866-567-6277 and to refrain from attempting to untangle any whales.   
 The coordinates and map of the opened area in LFA 26A are included in the Notice to Fishers below for your reference:

[**Rock Crab Notice To Fishers**](https://www.invernesssouth.com/uploads/1/8/2/9/18294681/2017_rock_crab_lfa_26a_maintain_area_closure_to_20_fathoms_after_aug_31_notice_to_fish_harvesters.pdf)

**Atlantic Mackerel Management Plan: Commercial License Freeze Notification:** Please be advised that the Minister has implemented a temporary freeze on the issuance of new commercial mackerel licenses for fixed and mobile gear effective July 27, 2017. This includes the addition of new gear types to existing commercial licenses. Please contact your Regional Senior Advisor directly should you have any questions.

**Tuna 2017**: Fisheries and Oceans Canada wishes to advise Gulf Nova Scotia (GNS) tuna licence holders that the commercial tuna fishing season for areas 4T-4Wd will open on August 3, 2017 at 6:00 a.m. (ADT).  The fishery will remain open until the quota is harvested or until November 18, 2017, whichever comes first.  The total quota available is 44.417 t.  
   
151 tags are available to the GNS fleet in 2017. Tags will be allocated using the revolving tag list that has been used the past several years.   
   
Tag transfers are permitted during the 2017 season. Licence holders may receive a maximum transfer of two tags during the season. A tuna licence holder can only do one of the following, not both:    
   
- transfer tag(s) to another fisherman;  - receive tag(s) in a transfer.    
   
The revolving tag list will be resumed if additional tag allocations are available upon review of landings on September 27, 2017.    
   
In 2017, there will be no reallocation of tags. The tags and conditions of licence will be valid for the entire 2017 season unless the quota is landed and the season is closed.   
   
Tags will be available for pick up at the Gulf Nova Scotia Area Office in Antigonish on Tuesdays from 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m., Thursdays from 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m., or by appointment by calling 1-855-634-2355 or by emailing GulfInfoGolfe@dfo-mpo.gc.ca.   
   
​Click the link below to read the Notice to Fishers which include new management measures for the 2017 season:

[**2017 Tuna**](https://www.invernesssouth.com/uploads/1/8/2/9/18294681/mects-_3811313-v1-gulf_nova_scotia_tuna_notice_to_fish_harvesters_gns.pdf)

**Atlantic Mackerel Management Plan 2017:** Click the link below to read the management plan:

[**2017 Mackerel Management Plan**](https://www.invernesssouth.com/uploads/1/8/2/9/18294681/tac_20notification.pdf)

**Rock Crab Area 26A Restriction:**   
 Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) wishes to inform rock crab fish harvesters fishing in Lobster Fishing Area (LFA) 26A that a section of the fishing area at a depth greater than 20 fathoms will be closed when the fishery opens on August 7, 2017.    
   
DFO is closing this section of LFA 26A to the rock crab fishery until August 31, 2017 inclusively to prevent future incidents with North Atlantic Right Whales (NARW) in the Gulf of St. Lawrence.  
   
Licence holders are asked to report all observations of dead or injured marine mammals by calling a 1-866-567-6277 and to refrain from attempting to untangle any whales.   
 The coordinates and map of the opened area in LFA 26A are included in the Notice to Fishers below for reference:

[**Notice To Fishers**](https://www.invernesssouth.com/uploads/1/8/2/9/18294681/2017_rock_crab_lfa_26a_area_closure_to_20_phatoms-_notice_to_fish_harvesters_august.pdf)

**Fleet Planning Board Generosity Continues:** The Fleet Planning Board will once again be contributing towards the safety of our fishers. This fall the FPB will be delivering Emersion Suits and EPEIRBs to every member for free! As well, they have secured a quote from a company in New Brunswick for any of our members who needs to purchase a life raft. Anyone who wishes to take advantage of the quoted price, you must deal directly with Jonathan Gagne from Enterprises Shippagan LTD cell phone 1-506-888-0924 if you wish to make a purchase.

**16G Herring Fishery**: This VO opens the 16G herring fishery on July 16th  
 The plan has not changed from last year except there will be a 2 week break between August 25 to September 10 before the main roe fishery opens.

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| --- | --- |
| [**16G VO**](https://www.invernesssouth.com/uploads/1/8/2/9/18294681/2017-052_-_herring_hfa_16g_weekend_closures.pdf) | [**Management table**](https://www.invernesssouth.com/uploads/1/8/2/9/18294681/final_version_2017_16g_mgmt_table_.pdf) |

**LFA 26A Rock Crab**: The Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), Gulf Region, wishes to advise that the fishery for rock crab in Lobster Fishing Area (LFA) 26A will open from 06:00 a.m. on August 7, 2017, until November 25, 2017.  These season dates are in keeping with the practice of opening the fishery on the first Monday in August and closing it on the last Saturday of November. Click the link below to read the entire Notice to Fishers:

[**Rock Crab 2017 LFA 26A**](https://www.invernesssouth.com/uploads/1/8/2/9/18294681/2017_rock_crab_lfa_26a_notice_to_fish_harvesters.pdf)

**Bluefin Tuna Management 2017**: DFO has released the 2017 management details and allocations for the Bluefin Tuna industry. Click the link below to read:

[**Bluefin Tuna Management 2017**](https://www.invernesssouth.com/uploads/1/8/2/9/18294681/bluefin_tuna_management_2017gestion_du_thon_rouge_2017.pdf)

**Green Crab Pilot Project Extension**: Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) - Gulf Region wishes to advise stakeholders that the Green Crab Pilot Project has been extended for the 2017 season.  This pilot project is for Gulf Region commercial American eel licence holders with fyke nets or eel pots gear to temporarily exchange their commercial eel licence for a green crab licence.  Letters of Agreement will be sent out to those who have participated in the previous year for this fishery.  Eligible licence holders interested in participating in this fishery are welcome to contact Departmental representatives listed below.  All management measures will remain the same for the 2017 season.  The season is scheduled from May 1 to November 15, 2017. Read the entire Notice to Fishers below:

[**Green Crab Pilot Project**](https://www.invernesssouth.com/uploads/1/8/2/9/18294681/greencrabpilotproject.pdf)

**Snow Crab Tagging Study**: DFO is conducting a tagging study to better understand the movement of snow crab. For what to do if you catch a tagged crab, click the link below: