

ENTREFILETS

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SNOW CRAB MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) announced details of 1995 Snow Crab Management plan for the Mid North Shore (Area 16), the Estuary of St. Lawrence (Area 17) and the Lower North Shore (Areas 14 and 15).

Here is the total allowable catch (TAC) for each area and its allocation:

Area 16

- 3,431 tonnes will be made available for harvesting by the existing snow crab fleet.

- for 1995 only, 204 tonnes will be made available, for distribution. This will be managed by the Alliance des pêcheurs professionnels du Québec (APPQ). Of these 204 tonnes, 15 tonnes will be allocated to each of the following three Native Bands : Uashat Maliotenam, Mingan and Natashquan.

Area 17

- 1,721 tonnes will be made available for harvesting by the existing snow crab fleet.

- for 1995 only, 99 tonnes will be made available, for distribution. This will be managed by the APPQ. Of these 99 tonnes, 15 tonnes will be allocated

to each of the following two Native Bands : Les Escoumins and Betsiamites.

Area 14

- 494 tonnes will be made available for harvesting by the existing snow crab fleet.

- for 1995 only, 30 tonnes will be made available, for distribution. This will be managed by the Alliance des pêcheurs professionnels du Québec (APPQ).

Area 15

- 410 tonnes will be made available for harvesting by the existing snow crab fleet.

- for 1995 only, 25 tonnes will be made available, for distribution. This will be managed by the APPQ. Of these 25 tonnes, 5 tonnes will be allocated to the Native Band of La Romaine.

The 1995 management measures which will be implemented are consistent with the Atlantic Snow Crab Strategy announced April 13. The measures will allow a more equitable sharing of the snow crab resource and maintain a strong commitment to conservation while ensuring the viability of the existing fleets. This has been done by setting a conservative TAC and by impos-

ing strict monitoring and control measures for all participants. Native communities, in Quebec and throughout Atlantic Canada where there is a temporary re-distribution of the crab resource, have access to the extra benefits as do other snow crab non-licence holders.

The Native communities will, jointly with the APPQ, identify an acceptable plan for the harvesting of their respective allocation within the prescribed harvesting criteria.

The APPQ will be responsible for managing the harvesting of the temporary allocations for the benefit of all non-crab fishers. It will decide on the fishing terms and proceed with contractual arrangements entered into with in-shore groundfish fishers in priority or crab fishers. The APPQ will also be required to collaborate with other organizations to submit acceptable business and harvesting plans to DFO, before being authorized to harvest any portion of the allocation.

Consistent with the Atlantic Snow Crab Strategy, no permanent changes will be made in the 1995 fishery.

Renald Gauthier

TURBOT FISHERIES IN 1995

The reopening of the Canadian turbot fishery in the sub-areas 2 and 3, off the coast of Labrador and the east coast of Newfoundland, has been recently announced.

The announcement comes after a dispute with the European Union (EU) over NAFO allocations of turbot which ended on April 20, when Canada and the EU signed a fisheries conservation and enforcement agreement. The agreement provides a new comprehensive system of control and enforcement measures for vessels fishing straddling stocks in NAFO-regulate waters outside Canada's 200-mile zone.

"In negotiating for the long-term conservation and protection of turbot and other stocks, Canada agreed to reduce its catch by 6,000 tonnes of its 1995 NAFO allocation to allow a greater catch by the European Union," said Mr. Tobin. "Canada, however, will still have the opportunity to harvest 10,000 tonnes of sub-areas 2 and 3 turbot, which allows a substantial fishery for Canadians for the rest of the year".

Catch limits for Canadians fishermen have been set at 7,000 tonnes for sub-areas 2 plus Division 3K, and 3,000 tonnes for Divisions 3LMNO. Access to these areas will be open to eligible groundfish licence holders, whether they fished for turbot in 1994 or not.

All vessels greater than 65 feet have access to turbot in these areas, as well as vessels replacing those under the Temporary Vessel Replacement Policy (TVRP). Vessels less than 65 feet based in 2J3KL, 3PS and 4RS also have access.

Minister Tobin also announced allocations for the Greenland halibut (northern turbot) fishery in Sub-area 0, in the Davis Strait, off the east coast of Baffin Island and issued a call for proposals for Canadian companies wishing to use foreign vessels in this fishery in 1995.

"Bilateral discussions with Greenland have resulted in a quota of 5,500 tonnes for Canadian fishermen in 1995, 50 per cent of the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) of 11,000 tonnes," said Mr. Tobin.

The TAC for Sub-areas 0 and 1 northern turbot is set on the advice of the NAFO Scientific Council and is shared by Canada and Greenland.

(To be followed on page 2)

ATLANTIC LICENSING POLICY REVIEW

A review of licensing policies in the Atlantic fishery has recently begun. "A comprehensive licensing review is another important step in the development of a long-term approach for an economically viable, self-sustaining and self-reliant fishery," Mr. Tobin stated.

"There is a strong consensus, as reflected at the Round Table on the Future of the Atlantic Fishery in early March, for a long-term and sustained effort to reduce capacity. We will also focus on the consensus for the promotion of a multi-species fishing strategy for the inshore fishery. We have to develop a licensing framework which gives fishers a greater say with increased responsibility for the stewardship of our resources. We will hold consultations throughout Atlantic Canada and Quebec to hear the views of fishers and other stakeholders in the fishery", said Minister Tobin.

A consultation document, Atlantic Licensing Policy Review, has been made

available and consultations were recently held.

An interim measure to ensure the effectiveness of the Groundfish Licence Retirement Program to permanently remove harvesting capacity was also announced by Minister Tobin.

A temporary suspension has been placed on the transfer of groundfish licences held by those fishermen who do not meet the following Special Eligibility Criteria (SEC):

- must be head of an active fishing enterprise;
- must have seven years of full-time fishing experience (five years with full-time/bona fide registration status); and
- must have either
 - a gross annual enterprise fishing income of at least \$3,000 and 75 per cent of earned personal income from fishing in three of the four years which would have been used to qualify for the Atlantic Groundfish Strategy (TAGS), or

- had gross revenue from the fishing enterprise of at least \$20,000 in two of the four TAGS qualifying years.

"The transfer of groundfish licences will be permitted only between fishermen who meet the SEC criteria," the Minister added. "We must ensure that the reduction in harvesting capacity resulting from the retired licences is not backfilled by other fishermen who traditionally have been only marginally involved in the groundfish fishery.

This temporary provision will apply to the Quebec, Gulf and Scotia-Fundy regions. A temporary freeze on groundfish licence transfers is already in place in the Newfoundland region. "As a result of the Atlantic-wide consultations, a revised Atlantic Licensing Policy will be adopted" said Mr. Tobin. The new Atlantic Licensing Policy will provide a comprehensive framework for the fisheries of the future and will then replace the temporary measures now in place across Atlantic Canada.

Renald Gauthier



CRAB FISHERY : TOUGH CONSERVATION MEASURES

The tough conservation measures put in place to protect the snow crab resource will be strictly enforced for all participants in all areas in accordance with the 1995 management plan.

Sanctions, including revoking licenses, will be applied if any fisherman breaks the rules. More than that, if compliance with the rules becomes a problem, or if conservation of the resource is threatened, the fishery will be closed.

The 1995 snow crab fishery for temporary seasonal permit holders was introduced to provide for a more equitable sharing of the snow crab resource between existing licence holders and non-crab fishers, including those affected by moratoria on groundfish stocks. For 1995, allocations within the existing quota were adjusted in order to re-direct a portion for harvest by others not currently licensed to fish crab.

All participants in the fishery will be required to comply with management

measures that include at-sea and dock-side monitoring, as well as at-sea sampling of catches. Also, the number of vessels allowed in some areas will be limited to ensure sufficient enforcement coverage at all times.

Monitoring for soft-shelled crab will be carried out in most areas. If catches of soft-shelled crab exceed those set in the management plans, the fishery will be closed.

Each of the inshore fishers' organizations receiving temporary seasonal allocations for 1995 will be required to submit a detailed report on their 1995 operations and activities to the Regional Director General by September 30, 1995. All temporary seasonal permits are valid for the 1995 crab fishing season only and will expire at the end of the 1995 crab fishing season.

"The temporary nature of these seasonal permits should guide fishermen in their investment decisions with re-

spect to vessels and gear in this fishery," Mr. Tobin said.

EXPLORATORY FISHERY

An exploratory crab fishery has been authorized in an area situated between the Magdalen Islands and Cape Breton, and in an area of the Laurentian Channel. These two fishing areas were identified as non-traditional snow crab fishing areas in zone 12 in the 1995 management plan.

For the area defined as the Laurentian Channel, four exploratory snow crab fishing licences will be issued: two in New Brunswick, one in Québec and one in Prince Edward Island. Catches will be limited to 120,000 lbs. of crab per vessel, with a maximum of 100 traps being used by each vessel. This exploratory fishery is restricted to boats with a LOA of 50 feet or greater.

For the area between the Magdalen Islands and Cape Breton, seven fishers, four from the Magdalen Islands and three from the Gulf coast of Nova Sco-

tia (Cape Breton) will be authorized to take part. In this area, catches are not to exceed 100,000 lbs. per vessel, again with a maximum of 100 traps for each vessel. The Magdalen Islands' eligible fishers with boats of a LOA of 35 ft. to 65 ft. will be able to participate at this exploratory fishery, while the Cape Breton eligible fishers will be restricted to boats of a LOA of 45 ft. to 65 ft.

Stringent management measures will be implemented to ensure that fishing activities and analysis of the data obtained will be conducted in an orderly manner. These fishing activities began on Wednesday, June 7, 1995. The Quebec and Gulf Regions oversaw the selection of the participants in the fishery through a draw process where necessary.

The exploration of these areas will allow DFO to collect additional biological data that will be useful in obtaining a better understanding of the stock status while providing economic benefits.

Renald Gauthier

TURBOT FISHERIES IN 1995 (continued from page 1)

For the 1995 quota of 5,500 tonnes in Sub-area 0, the Canadian management plan establishes a competitive quota of 1,000 tonnes, accessible to Atlantic groundfish licence holders, and maintains the Inuit quota of 1,000 tonnes. Based on the recommendation of the Panel on the Use of Foreign Vessels in Canadian Waters, foreign vessels may be chartered by Canadian fishermen to harvest the remaining 3,500 tonnes.

"The use of foreign vessels will be authorized only on condition that they meet the most stringent landing requirements," Mr. Tobin said. "All catches must be landed at Canadian ports and 90 per cent of them must be processed in Canadian plants. Companies chartering foreign vessels in 1995 must demonstrate their compliance with 1994 program criteria."

François Miville-Deschênes

46 SANCTIONS IMPOSED ON QUÉBEC FISHERMEN

Since January 1994, DFO's Québec Region has imposed 46 fishing licence sanctions, representing a financial loss of nearly \$252,000 for the offenders. The Department is currently reviewing 23 other cases, and will issue a decision shortly. The sanctions relate primarily to five fisheries — snow crab, shrimp, lobster, scallops and groundfish.

In the snow crab fishery, 23 sanctions have been imposed since January 1994, representing an estimated total financial loss of \$170,000 for the offenders. The main offences consisted in discarding of crab, use of illegal traps, failure to have landings weighed, exceeding the quota, failure to give 12 hours' advance notice of departure, and fishing in an unauthorized area.

The five sanctions imposed in the shrimp fishery have resulted in an estimated total financial loss of \$17,900, with the main violations consisting of exceeding the quota and failure to use or improper use of the Nordmore grate.

As regards lobster fishing, 10 sanctions have been imposed, with an estimated financial impact of \$12,700. Use of unauthorized traps and landings of lobsters smaller than 76 mm and egg-bearing females were the main violations.

In the scallop fishery, only one decision has been rendered so far in the three cases under review, and its financial impact is estimated at \$24,000.

Lastly, in the case of groundfish, six licence sanctions have been imposed, with an estimated financial loss of \$26,000. The violations involved failure to throw back bycatches of crab, use of illegal gear configurations (trawls and gillnets) and refusal to take an observer on board.

These sanctions attest to DFO's determination to keep with its mandate to conserve and protect Canadian fishery resources by strictly enforcing the regulations. Through moratoria and annual groundfish management plans, the Department is monitoring and protecting Atlantic fishery resources more closely. In keeping with its zero tolerance policy for offenders, DFO imposes severe sanctions for commercial fishery offences that are detrimental to resource conservation.

The sanctions imposed may take the form of a licence suspension for a set time period, cancellation of fishing privileges, non-issuance of the licence for a given period, or a quota reduction. Violations affecting resource conservation in any commercial fishery may result in penalties.

Renald Gauthier

POURVOIRIE MAKO WINS A PRIZE

DFO, Quebec Region, congratulates Antoine Poirier, owner of the Mako outfitting company of Grande Entrée in the Magdalen Islands, on winning the tourism innovation award sponsored by Bombardier's Sea-Doo/Ski-Doo Division. Mr Poirier was presented with the award at the 10th Quebec tourism awards gala, held in Montreal on Saturday, May 13, 1995.

For the past two years, Antoine Poirier, a professional lobster fisherman and captain-owner of a fishing vessel, has been taking tourists on deep sea shark fishing trips. Whether they are hoping to land a Mako shark, blue shark or spiny dogfish, fishing enthusiasts get a thrill out of this

experience, while also learning more about marine fauna.

A spinoff from traditional fishing, this tourist-oriented activity was started up with a financial contribution from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans under the Quebec Federal Fisheries Development Program (QFFDP).

In initiating his deep sea fishing enterprise, Mr Poirier showed that, by finding innovative ways of harnessing previously unexploited resources, it is possible to broaden the range of harvesting activities, thereby boosting productivity.

François Miville-Deschênes

CONTAMINATED MOLLUSCS : PUBLIC NOTICE

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) advises the general public not to eat any Arctic wedge clams, even if they come from areas that are open to harvesting. People should be careful not to gather any specimens of this bivalve mollusc which is fairly abundant along the coast between Tadoussac and Havre St.Pierre.

The Arctic wedge clam is often confused with the softshell clam; however, since wedge clams tend to contain high levels of toxins, they should not be eaten because of the health risk they pose.

Here are a few characteristics that will enable harvesters to differentiate between the Arctic wedge clam and the softshell clam:

- Arctic wedge shell clams are generally smaller than 5 cm (2 inches) in length, while softshell clams are 10 cm (4 inches) long on average.
- The wedge clam has a pointy, asymmetrical hinge, whereas the softshell clam's hinge is rounder and more centred.
- The flesh of the Arctic wedge clam is orangey, while that of the softshell clam is cream-coloured.

To prevent any health problems from the consumption of molluscs, DFO is urging people not to gather any bivalve molluscs that are smaller than 5 cm (2 inches) and have orange-coloured flesh. Furthermore, harvesting is prohibited in closed shellfish areas.

DFO also reminds the population that the shellfish harvesting area of Anses à Frigault (N-8.2.2), located east of the Franquelin wharf, is closed. Analysis made in 1991 by Environnement Canada confirmed that water was polluted in that area and that no modifications in regard with the sources of that pollution had been signaled. DFO had then closed this area, the molluscs being unfit for human consumption, and still keeps it closed.

Respecting its mandate related to public health care, DFO stresses the fact that consumption of molluscs harvested in a polluted area is very hazardous. Any harvesting area is closed as soon as a health risk is suspected.

*Roger Gélinas
Inspection Branch*

HOLDING SNOW CRAB IN THE SEA

In recent years, Lower North Shore and Gaspé aquaculturists have conducted various projects aimed at holding snow crab in the sea as a means of extending production beyond the fishing season and thus supplying local and regional markets over a longer period. To assist these project proponents, the aquaculture team at the Maurice Lamontagne Institute has carried out a number of land- and sea-based experiments which have demonstrated the feasibility of holding snow crab for this purpose. This article describes the knowledge acquired during the past three years about the biological, technical and economic aspects of this undertaking, and outlines the different steps involved.

WHAT DOES HOLDING ENTAIL?

Holding consists in keeping live crabs from the commercial fishery in a facility for a period of time, without feeding them. Upon capture, the crabs are transferred to holding units anchored at accessible sites that offer conditions favourable to their survival. This technique can be used to extend the period of availability of the fresh product, thereby permitting greater price stability and development of new consumer markets.

CAPTURE, HOLDING AND TRANSPORT OF CRABS

When crabs are removed from fishing traps and placed in holding units, they need to be handled with great care. Crabs that are injured or lose legs as a result of careless handling have a much higher mortality rate and are more susceptible to predation by amphipods. Exposure to air increases the mortality rate, especially in high temperatures and when the crabs are not protected from the wind and sun. As soon as possible after capture, the crabs must be placed in perforated containers, moved to the vessel hold and put on ice, pending transfer to the holding units.

HOLDING SITES

Sites should be selected primarily on the basis of water temperature and salinity.

In the natural environment, snow crabs are used to a water temperature of about 5°C and a salinity range of 28 to 34‰ (sea water salinity). The species is highly sensitive to low salinities. Whereas a salinity level of 22‰ (3/4 sea water and 1/4 fresh water) results in mortality of 10 to 20% in four days, 21‰ salinity causes mortality on the order of 50% over the same period. At a salinity level of 20‰, 50% mortality occurs in as little as 12 hours. Although no studies have been done to date on long-term tolerance of low salinities, snow crabs should be kept in water with a salinity of over 26‰. The water temperature should be kept as close to 0°C as possible to promote a good survival rate. In experiments where crabs were held in tanks for five months, mortality rates of 10%, 18% and 30% were recorded for temperatures of 0.5°C, 5.0°C and 10.0°C respectively. Through monitoring of the crabs' physiological condition, it was noted that water retention in muscle increased with water temperature and with the duration of the holding period and that the quantity of claw meat declined slightly. A meat yield test, conducted after 177 days on a group of 11 crabs held at 0.5°C, revealed a mean meat yield (the crabs shells were removed manually) of 28.5% of total weight, or just under the mean yield of 33-34% obtained for a sample of crabs that had just been landed. Suitable temperature and salinity conditions are generally found at depths of over 30 fathoms. In the sea, water quality (oxygen and ammonium content) does not present a problem since there is a constant recirculation of water on the bottom.

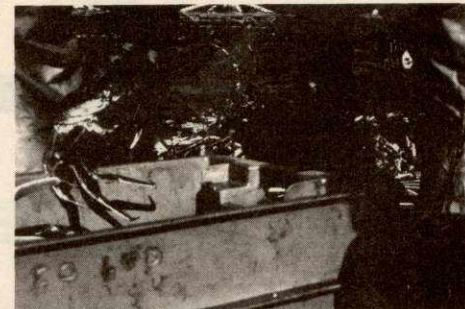
In choosing a site, it is important to also consider the distance to the nearest fishing harbour so as to keep transportation costs down and make it easier to oversee the facility.

TYPE OF HOLDING UNIT AND STOCKING DENSITY

In the first holding experiments in the sea, conical or rectangular fishing traps with standard mesh were used, but the

openings were blocked. In traps fitted with this mesh size, crabs can stick out their legs, making them vulnerable to certain predators. There is also a risk of the crabs' legs being broken when the traps are lowered into or hauled out of the water. If crabs do become injured, amphipods can penetrate their shells and, it is believed, devour their flesh in very little time. Working in co-operation with Daniel Desbois, a fisherman and fishmarket owner from Gascons, the Maurice Lamontagne team tried out a new holding unit; it consisted of a rectangular fishing trap (1.5×1.5×0.6 m) with standard mesh (13 cm), to which a rectangular cover (1.5×1.5×0.6 m) made of small mesh (6 mesh per centimetre) polyester netting was attached. With this trap configuration, the survival rate of the crabs increased substantially. Average mortality was 5.5% after nine weeks in the holding system and 11% after 12 weeks. Leg losses did not exceed 4.6%. The incidence of amphipod penetration and broken legs was greatly reduced in the traps fitted with a liner, which may explain why their performance was so good.

The success of holding systems for crab declines with an increase in stocking density, or the number of crabs held communally in traps. In tank-based experiments conducted at the Maurice Lamontagne Institute, three stocking densities were tested, namely 55, 38 and 18 kg/m². After nine weeks at 5°C, heavy mortalities were recorded (20%) for the highest density, whereas the mortality rates for the intermediate and lowest densities were below 9%. In the sea, mortality rates of 5% and under were obtained for densities of 38 kg/m². At a higher density, a greater incidence of broken legs and injuries is observed as well. In view of this, we recommend that operators avoid holding too many crabs in their traps. The time savings and larger number of traps that can be operated do not offset the greater loss in the quantity of crabs obtained and their quality.

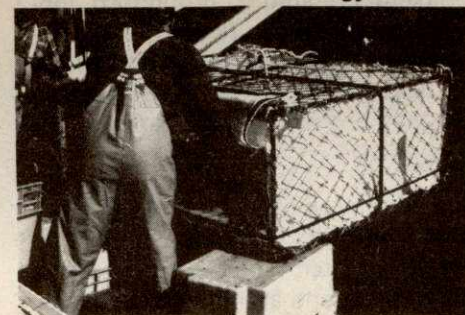


Crabs need to be handled with great care.

FINANCIAL FEASIBILITY

A financial feasibility study on snow crab holding operations (Dorion and Provencher, 1994) showed that sea-based facilities can be economically viable. This activity holds promise for fishermen who already have the basic equipment (vessel, winch, etc) needed. At volumes of 20,000 lb and 50,000 lb of crab and a price difference of \$0.90/lb between landed price and selling price, an operator could earn additional income of about \$11,000 and \$22,000 respectively. A price difference of at least \$0.70/lb is required to cover operating costs. A market study conducted by the same authors (in preparation) among fish and seafood buyers in Quebec pointed up the market potential of crab sold off-season in Quebec, especially live crab and the eastern regions of Quebec. However, if the landed price is high, as was the case this year, the selling price for crab will probably be higher than the price consumers are willing to pay for the product.

Lizon Provencher
Invertebrate and Experimental
Biology Division



Daniel Desbois, from Gascons, lowers an experimental holding unit into the water.

NEW PUBLICATION ON SCALLOPS

A study on Iceland scallops and sea scallops, conducted on the Lower North Shore by Michel Giguère, Sylvie Brulotte and Roberta Miller of the mollusc section at the Maurice Lamontagne Institute, was recently published in the Department's technical report series. The research was carried out in co-operation with the Lower North Shore Fishermen's Association and the firm Promonor.

The purpose of the study was to survey scallop populations in some relatively unexplored areas of the Lower North Shore, and estimate the incidence and causes of sea scallop mortality in this region. More specifically, the report gives information on the distribution, density, size, condition and mortality of Icelandic scallops and sea scallops on the Lower North Shore.

To obtain free copies of this bilingual report, please call the Maurice Lamontagne Institute library at (418) 775-0552, or write to the following address: Maurice Lamontagne Institute, Library, P.O. Box 1000, 850 route de la Mer, Mont-Joli, Quebec G5H 3Z4. The report is entitled *Distribution, growth and mortality of Iceland scallops and sea scallops between Kegaska and Vieux Fort on the Lower North Shore of Quebec in 1993*, and is Canadian Technical Report of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences #2033.

PROJECTS UNDER FATEP COME TO FRUITION

Two companies that launched projects with the help of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Testing and Experimentation Program (FATEP) made the headlines recently. Their future looks very rosy indeed.

Aquabiotech, a new company based in Coaticook, received a financial contribution under FATEP in 1988 to develop a water recycle system with biological filtration. Thanks to this new technology, which is now fully operational, the firm was featured in an article in the April 1995 issue of Québec Science. The process will enable fish farmers to save huge quantities of water since it reuses 99.9% of the water required for rearing. This water is kept at a slightly higher than usual temperature, helping to induce growth in cultured fish. The

Aquabiotech project promises to revolutionize fish farming.

Kudos is due also to Cuirs ODY-C, a young Magdalen Islands fashion company that uses seal hide and fur in making clothing. With the help of funding from FATEP, company president Odette Leblanc was able to learn how to work with seal pelts and develop several designs. In view of its success, Cuirs ODY-C recently was named small tourism business of the year in the Magdalen Islands as part of the 1995 Quebec tourism awards.

The tributes bestowed on these firms show that, under FATEP, project proponents have put their ideas to work successfully, with the prospect of continuing benefits for the industry.

Fabienne Hié

AGREEMENT TO CONSERVE AND PROTECT STRADDLING STOCKS

Brian Tobin and André Ouellet, Minister of Foreign Affairs, announced on April 15 an agreement on the conservation and management of stocks that straddle Canada's 200-mile limit. The agreement was negotiated by senior officials of the Government of Canada and the European Commission.

"This agreement is not just about providing immediate protection for turbot stocks," Mr. Tobin said. "It's also about rebuilding cod and flatfish stocks currently under moratoria."

"Our negotiators did a superb job in ensuring that conservation of fragile fish stocks and the strict enforcement of fishing rules are now basic preconditions that must be met by all vessels and by all fishing fleets in advance of any harvesting activity," Mr. Ouellet said.

Under the Canada-EU Control and Enforcement Agreement, a new manda-

tory enforcement regime will govern all Canadian and EU vessels fishing in specific areas regulated by NAFO.

"This agreement reflects a bilateral commitment to introduce a better set of rules, and, for the first time, an effective system to enforce the rules and provide for more severe penalties for those who break them," Mr. Ouellet said.

Major components of the new enforcement agreement include:

- independent, full-time observers on board vessels at all times;
- enhanced surveillance via satellite tracking;
- increased inspections and quick reporting of infractions;
- verification of gear and catch records;
- timely and significant penalties to deter violations;
- new minimum fish size limits; and

- improved dockside monitoring.

Under the agreement, Canada will harvest 10,000 tonnes of turbot, subject to further information about the health of the stock. The EU will limit further catches of turbot by its vessels in 1995 to 5013 tonnes from April 15.

"While Canada will harvest less turbot than its February quota from NAFO, the 10,000 tonnes now available in 1995 is three times greater than last year's catch. While the EU will receive more than the NAFO quota recommended in February, its harvesting level is about five times less than what the EU harvested in 1994," Mr. Tobin said.

"We have achieved a total enforcement regime. For the first time, we have a way of monitoring EU catches, controlling EU fleets, preventing the use of liners in nets, stopping the catch of undersized fish and controlling the catches of fish under moratoria."

On May 2nd, M. Tobin announced yesterday that all EU vessels fishing in the NAFO Regulatory Area will have an observer on board by May 5.

Canada and the EU will also propose to NAFO that all these measures be adopted by all NAFO Contracting Parties for 1995 and beyond. A special NAFO meeting took place June 7-9, 1995 for this purpose.

"When the agreement is approved by NAFO, it will be even stronger," said Mr. Tobin. "Contracting party inspectors will have to respond in a timely manner when informed of a violation of the rules by one of their vessels. These inspectors will have the authority to immediately order the vessel to a nearby port. Canadian inspectors will be able to go on board the vessel as it proceeds to port and monitor the inspection."

François Miville-Deschênes

POACHING ALERT 1994-1995 : A SUMMARY

Under the Poaching Alert Program, 237 complaints were received, from April 1, 1994 to April 1, 1995, concerning illegal fishing activities in Quebec. Based on a breakdown by species group, the largest number of complaints related to groundfish, lobster and crab. In all, 78.9% of the complaints were investigated, with 18.2% of these investigations resulting in charges being laid or confiscation.

GROUND FISH

Most of the complaints related to sport fishing, in particular, non-compliance with daily catch limits, fishing season closing dates and authorized fishing areas. A large number of complaints were received in relation to commercial groundfishing activities as well, especially failure to throw back by-catches, illegal selling of groundfish and the use of nets with sublegal size mesh. Following investigation, twelve charges were laid.

LOBSTER

In the case of lobster, the majority of complaints related to poaching by non-fishermen and use of unauthorized fishing gear by fishermen (traps without tags). Eight charges were laid further to investigation and surveillance operations.

SNOW CRAB

While the complaints centred mainly on poaching by non-fishermen, a number of complaints concerned the commercial fishery, in particular, illegal landings and fishing in an area not authorized in the licence. Seven charges were laid as a result of the ensuing investigations.

MOLLUSCS HARVESTING

The bulk of complaints related to mollusc harvesting in closed areas. In addition, several complaints concerned fishing in unauthorized areas and poaching by non-fishermen. Two charges were laid further to investigation.

MARINE MAMMALS

Once again this year, the majority of complaints in this category related to harassment of belugas and other whales on the North Shore. While the alleged violators consisted mainly of people on whale-watching cruises, some pleasure boaters were implicated as well. In addition, a few of the complaints related to illegal seal hunting. Two charges were laid.

DFO wishes to remind pleasure boaters and whale watchers of the regulations which are intended to prevent harassment of whales, and of the fact that it is forbidden to deliberately approach beluga whales.

SCALLOPS

Complaints related to scallops centred on fishing during a period not authorized in the licence, failure to throw back by-catches and unauthorized landings. One charge arose out of the ensuing investigations.

PELAGIC SPECIES

Complaints in the pelagic sector related primarily to fishing conducted without a proper licence and gear left unattended for more than 72 hours. Two charges resulted from the investigations into these cases.

Marc Naud
Enforcement Branch

ATLANTIC MACKEREL MANAGEMENT PLAN

On April 27, the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans announced details of the new two-year, 1995-96 Atlantic Mackerel Management Plan.

"Based on consultations and current scientific advice, a Total Allowable Catch, or TAC, of 100,000 tonnes for mackerel for the Atlantic regions and Quebec has been set," said Mr. Tobin. "The TAC has been set at a level which will ensure protection of the stocks."

The 1992-94 management plan had set the TAC at 105,000 tonnes. Atlantic mackerel landings in 1992, 1993, and 1994 were approximately 26,000 tonnes, 28,000 tonnes and 19,000 tonnes, respectively.

Under the new 1995-96 management plan, the Atlantic Mackerel Development Program will be eliminated and exploratory licences will be available to holders of existing herring fixed or mobile gear licences not already eligible for a mackerel licence.

"Although exploratory mackerel licences to existing herring mobile gear licence holders may be issued, controls involving protection of the traditional inshore markets, such as bait, will remain in place," said Mr. Tobin.

In the future, the consultative process will be modified and regional consultations will be established to address local management measures.

Regulatory controls and licensing policies will continue to apply on a regional basis, in accordance with circumstances in local areas.

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