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Fisheries Management Plan: 1988

Scotia-Fundy Region

Swordfish

Canada

1988 SWORDFISH FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN

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1988 Atlantic Swordfish Fishery Management Plan

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THE 1988 ATLANTIC SWORDFISH MANAGEMENT PLAN

1988 ATLANTIC SWORDFISH MANAGEMENT PLAN OBJECTIVES

A vibrant, stable swordfish industry is dependent on the availability of a healthy, secure stock. Atlantic Swordfish Advisory Committee (ASAC) members recognize the need to develop and promote management strategies that are sensitive to these biological and economic nuances. To this end, the 1988 Swordfish Management Plan affirms the following objectives and principles:

1. Conservation and Protection

   Scientific data on the state of the swordfish biomass is incomplete. Biological advice suggests that the management process should be cognizant of this information gap. ASAC members recognize that, given the narrow biological base, capacity in the swordfish fishery must be controlled and monitored to ensure the effective conservation and protection of the stock. As well, the planning process must be sensitive to the transboundary nature of the swordfish stocks. Over exploitation will expose the industry to unnecessary instability.

2. Economic Benefits

   The international and domestic swordfish markets are potentially lucrative. Though the consumption of swordfish represents a small fraction of the total fish market, per unit prices received for the species can be high relative to other species. ASAC members argue that economic benefits coming from the fishery should be optimally distributed among all participants. The swordfish fishery is of significant economic benefit to isolated areas in Nova Scotia. A concentration of ownership in licences and/or vessels would distort the distribution of economic benefits. The harvesting sectors should receive solid levels of earnings and the processing sector should record reasonable rates of return on capital investments. Currently, active participants in the swordfish fishery are benefiting from stable markets and high prices.

3. Development of International Markets

   Canadian swordfish exports go primarily to the United States in fresh and frozen form. Recently, the United States Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) has been enforcing highly restrictive mercury tolerance levels. Access to American markets has been impeded as a result. Potential growth exists for a high quality product in the Japanese market. The current quality of the swordfish product does not satisfy Japanese standards. ASAC is committed to the development and exploitation of international markets and seeks to enhance the ability of the Canadian swordfish industry to compete in these markets. Market expansion and security will be an important facet of economic viability.

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4. Domestic Input and Control

ASAC members stress that swordfish in Canadian waters should be harvested and marketed by Canadian vessels and processors. Industry members favour limitations on the level of foreign effort on the swordfish resource in Canadian waters. Maximum Canadian participation and control will help ASAC to reinforce the objectives of conservation and protection, economic viability and the development of international markets.

1988 ATLANTIC SWORDFISH FISHING PLAN

Management Measures

1. A quota of 3,500 t assigned for 1988.

2. Allowance for the harvest of all tunas, with the exception of bluefin, by longline to further improve income positions.

3. Limitation on fishing areas. A condition of licence must appear on all swordfish licences: "Valid for NAFO Convention Subareas 3, 4 and 5 only, excluding Fishing Zones 1 and 2 of Canada" (Gulf of St. Lawrence and Bay of Fundy).

4. The number of swordfish longline licences is limited to a maximum of 70 licences.

5. Establishment of a 60 t (maximum) swordfish quota allowance for each of two offshore tuna vessels.

Data Collection

All licensed vessels must submit log records under the provisions of Section 48 of the Fisheries Act on the completion of each trip. This also applies to vessels that fish but do not catch any fish. For vessels not fishing, logs are to be submitted on a weekly basis. Log records must be submitted to the local Fishery Officer every week or after every trip, whichever is applicable.

The following information must be contained in those records submitted by each vessel:

1. Name of vessel.
2. Type of fishing gear used.
3. Name of the captain and total number of crew.
4. Trip number.
5. Date of sailing from port and date of return.
6. Port or ports at which the catch was sold.

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7. Name of buyer.
8. Day, month and year of fishing activity.
9. Position of fishing activity in:
    - latitude and longitude;
    - Loran readings; or
    - Decca readings.
10. Depth at which fishing activity was carried out.
11. Quantity of fishing gear used in fishing effort.
12. Estimated catch by species in pounds or kilograms.
13. Discards, if any, by species.

Licensing

Harpoon licences are available to individuals who held a licence in the preceding calendar year and to full-time/bona fide fishermen who own a vessel licensed for a limited entry fishery.

Longline licences are available to all individuals who held a swordfish longline licence in 1986.

Enforcement

1. Monitoring of longline swordfish landings will occur.

2. Collection of purchase slips and log books will be required for all landings.

3. Total observer coverage of Japanese tuna fleet activity will be provided.

4. Detailed records will be collected from all tuna landings by swordfish longline vessels indicating area of capture, date of capture, size of fish and probable tuna identification.

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

The swordfish fishery first began in the 1800's off southern New England, extending north of Cape Cod in 1867. A Canadian fishery began in earnest in 1903; by the 1940's, Canadian landings surpassed the United States in quantity and value. Up to 1963, swordfish were harvested with harpoons (landing large, almost exclusively female fish) with an average catch (Canada and the United States, 1910 to 1959) of 1,600 t dressed weight. In 1957, there were 160 vessels in the Canadian fleet.

Longlining was introduced in 1962, and it replaced harpooning as the primary harvesting method. The use of more versatile gear resulted in the extension of fishing areas and seasons. Catches increased significantly to about 8,000 t in 1963, then dropped to about 5,000 t during the late 1960's. Throughout the 1960's, the average size of fish landed decreased and both males and females were caught. (See Canadian Atlantic Fisheries Scientific Advisory Committee Research Document; 1985 Biological Update for the Canadian Swordfish Fishery.)

From 1971 to 1979, the swordfish fishery, due to excessive levels of mercury in the species, in Canada all but ceased. A small number of landings occurred in Canada, but the swordfish were not exported. In 1979, the highly restrictive mercury regulations were removed. Since the reopening, the majority of Canadian catches have come from the Scotia-Fundy longline fleet, which normally accounts for over 90 percent of total landings.

In 1979, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) believed that the reintroduction of longlining would redirect some effort away from the groundfish industry. This reduction of effort was modest in scope.

Between 1979 and 1981, the swordfish fishery was marked by a contentious licensing regime. Some industry members argued that there were too many licences issued, given the available resource. Licensing policy was stabilized with the introduction of an upper limit of 65 limited licences in 1983. By 1986, through attrition only 54 longline vessels were eligible for participation in the fishery.

In 1983, potential swordfish licence holders (longline) were required to meet the following criteria:

1. vessels had to be 13.7 m (45') length overall or greater;
2. applicants had to hold a limited entry groundfish longline licence; and
3. have the necessary gear on board prior to licence issuance.

These criteria, with the exception of the onboard gear requirement, remain in effect at the insistence of the Atlantic Swordfish Advisory Committee (ASAC). The recent swordfish effort has concentrated on the Scotian Shelf from July to October.

Restrictions on the harpoon swordfish fishery were lifted in 1983. Licences were issued to applicants who were full-time fishermen holding a limited entry fishing licence. Since 1983, the number of available licences has increased. Harpoon landings have not reflected any significant changes as a result of the increase in licences.

Beginning in 1985, all swordfish longline vessels were permitted to land tuna, except bluefin. This initiative required amendments to the tuna fishery regulations. Swordfish longline vessels are now able to retain tuna as a by-catch, consequently improving the potential economic benefits coming from any given fishing trip.

The 1984 International Court of Justice (ICJ) ruling on the Gulf of Maine boundary dispute between Canada and the United States placed Corsair Canyon, a lucrative swordfish fishing area, in the newly created Canadian zone. Anticipated increases in swordfish landings as a result of this decision did not take place in 1985 and 1986.

FISHERY PROFILE

In 1987, sixteen new licences were issued for swordfish on the basis of selection criteria and a draw. Ten of these were issued in Scotia-Fundy Region, four for Newfoundland and two in the Gulf Region.

During 1987, participants in the swordfish longline fishery experienced stable landings and received slightly higher market prices than in 1986. Throughout 1986 less than half of the eligible licence holders recorded swordfish landings. In fact, 15 of the longline vessels have no record of swordfish landings since they were originally licensed. There were 26 active swordfish longline vessels in 1986. These vessels landed approximately 990 t of swordfish valued at more than $6.5 million. In 1986, 49 longline vessels in the Scotia-Fundy Region and two vessels from Western Newfoundland were licensed to participate in the swordfish fishery. (Three additional vessels were eligible for a licence; the licence privileges were banked for replacement purposes.)

Table I: Length Distribution of Atlantic Region Swordfish Vessels - 1986
(Metres and Feet)

9.14-12.2 (30'-40')	12.3-15.3 (41'-50')	15.4-18.4 (51'-60')	18.5-21.2 (61'-70')	21.3-24.5 (71'-80')	24.6-27.5 (81'-90')	27.6-30.5 (91'-100')
9	17	10	9	0	1	5

Swordfish vessels are relatively small; most vessels are less than 19.8 (65') LOA. Only six vessels are greater than 24.6 m (81') LOA.

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Table II: Age Distribution of Atlantic Region Swordfish Vessels - 1986

1955-1960	1961-1965	1966-1970	1971-1975	1976-1980	1981-1985	1986+
6	7	4	8	9	10	7

A significant portion of the swordfish fleet is relatively new; 51 percent of the vessels have been constructed since 1976. Conversely, one-quarter of the fleet is old, 12 vessels are approaching the end of their useful life. It should be noted that the newer vessels are the most active participants in the swordfish fishery.

Table III: Vessels Licensed to Fish Swordfish and Associated Fishing Gear in the Atlantic Region

	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986
Total Vessels	345	531	458	504	610
Harpoon Licences	325	513	403[1]	493	602
Longline Licences	45	56	55	44	54*
Harpoon & Longline	25	38	39	33	39[1]

1 Subject to revision.

The number of licensed swordfish fishing vessels in the Atlantic Region in 1986 was 610, 17% higher than the number licensed in 1985. Most of that increase took place in harpoon licences which are available to certain full-time fishermen, but there was also an increase in the number of longline licences on which there is a restriction. The increase took place through the reactivation of licences previously banked and by the restoration of licences through the process of appeal. Therefore, the fishing effort on swordfish from the Atlantic Region is likely higher than it has been in recent years. The rising price of swordfish over the last four years and the improving market opportunities of the last two years have sparked the increased effort. Pressure from other fishermen to enter the fishery may also be expected as long as the price incentives and market opportunity remain.

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Table IV: Swordfish Landings, Values and Average Price Atlantic Canada Region, 1980-1987

Year	Inshore		Offshore		Total		Price	
	Landings tonnes	Values $'000	Landings tonnes	Values $'000	Landings tonnes	Values $'000	Av/lb. $	% Change From Previous Year
1980	84	199	1,802	3,971	1,886	4,170	1.00	-20
1981	33	75	539	1,181	572	1,256	1.00	0
1982	39	72	902	2,561	941	2,633	1.27	27
1983	64	177	1,002	3,239	1,065	3,416	1.46	15
1984	33	124	532	2,516	565	2,640	2.00	47
1985	37	187	548	2,768	585	2,955	2.45	7
1986	64	421	998	6,692	1,061	7,113	3.04	33
1987	59	432	889	6,252	948	6,685	3.20	5

The data Table IV shows the catch total value and average price for swordfish for each year going back to 1979. The figures on landings before 1985 are an amalgam of landings in the Atlantic region, and an estimation of fish transshipped at sea (statistics on landings can vary depending on the accuracy of catch data provided by commercial fishermen). In any case, the year 1986 was very favourable for the swordfish fishery in the Atlantic region. Prices were up over those of 1985 by 34 percent. Landings increased from 371 tonnes to 968 tonnes and the value of those landings rose from less than 2 million dollars in 1985 to more than 6½ million dollars in 1986.

The impact of the swordfish fishery on the economy of the Atlantic Canada Region, principally Nova Scotia, consists of the direct income earned by fishermen and vessel owners as well as the income that is generated as vessel owners buy supplies and the personal income is respent to buy goods and services. In round numbers, the total income generated from the fishing activity would be in the order of 10 million dollars. The employment multiplier is limited principally to those involved in fishing since the swordfish are shipped out, as landed, to markets in the United States and central Canada. That is, only minimal processing of swordfish is done in Nova Scotia. About 320 fishermen are employed on swordfish longline vessels from July to October inclusive. The number of fishermen involved in the harpoon fishery can only be roughly estimated since most of the harpoon fishery is ancillary to other fisheries; however, there is a direct harpoon fishery on Browns Bank and Georges Bank during July and August which might provide short-term employment for up to 200 fishermen.

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Ports

There were four swordfish harpoon licences issued in New Brunswick but there is no record of swordfish landed in that province--almost all swordfish are landed in Nova Scotia. The ports of landing for swordfish in recent years range from Sambro to Yarmouth. The principal ports of landing are Sambro, Upper Port La Tour, Port Mouton, Lockeport, Shelburne, Cape Sable Island (where there may be several points of landing) and Yarmouth. In Newfoundland, swordfish are landed in Cornerbrook.

Areas Where Swordfish Migrate Through

In 1986, swordfish were landed in the following fishing areas:

Table V: Distribution of the Swordfish Catch by Fishing Area[1] in Percentages

Fishing Area	Type of Fishery	
	Longline	Harpoon
Georges Bank (5Z)	19 %	50%
Browns Bank (4X)	65 %	50%
Sable Island Bank (4W)	15.5%	-
Grand Banks (3NO)*	.5%	-

1 No swordfish landings were reported by the two Newfoundland vessels in 1986.

* A single trip was made to Grand Banks where 75 kg were landed.

Market Forecasts and Trends

The Canadian market for swordfish is reported to be strong. Although sales volumes in recent years have been small, they are increasing. Canadian retailers in the larger cities indicate an excellent potential for growth if sufficient supply is available. Imports of swordfish to Canada increased considerably in 1986 to about 630,000 lbs (to October) up from 201,000 lbs for 1985. Nearly all of these imports come from the United States but some are recorded from Portugal, South America and Pacific rim countries.

Canadian swordfish exports go primarily to the United States in fresh and frozen form. More fresh swordfish is exported than frozen. In particular, the New England market has been strong in recent years. Prices for 1985 and 1986 averaged $5.00 to $6.00 per pound.

Growth potential exists in the Japanese market if a high quality product can be developed and if the current pricing regime remains stable. European nations have not imported significant volumes of swordfish in the past, rather they supply their own markets, keeping prices low. As well, they impose strict mercury tolerance levels.

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Recent trends of strong prices and restrictive swordfish supplies are likely to continue in the foreseeable future. Increased sales of swordfish in Canada is possible, but the American market will continue to provide the best opportunity for expansion. Due to low prices, competing suppliers and mercury tolerance levels, growth in other international markets will be limited.

Table VI: United States Swordfish Imports 1984 and 1985

Quantity (Q): in 000 lb, Value (V): in 000$ US, Price (P): in US$/lb

	1984	1985			January to September 1985			1986		
	Q	Q	V	P	Q	V	P	Q	V	P
Fresh										
Taiwan	1,007	2,654	4,127	1.55	2,407	3,732	1.55	2,714	4,820	1.78
Japan	22	408	745	1.82	349	621	1.78	101	206	2.04
Canada	432	885	1,965	2.22	439	983	2.24	1,343	4,547	3.39
Spain	n/a	2,810	6,521	2.32	1,620	3,863	2.38	2,859	8,980	3.14
Chile	n/a	345	804	2.33	343	802	2.34	968	2,596	2.68
Other	105	330	724	2.19	208	514	2.47	1,019	2,199	2.16
Total	1,556	7,432	14,886	2.00	5,366	10,515	1.96	9,004	23,348	2.59
Frozen										
Taiwan	340	511	715	1.40	393	553	1.41	147	164	1.12
Japan	701	1,053	2,417	2.29	753	1,679	2.23	252	559	2.22
Canada	73	3	8	2.67	3	8	2.67	18	35	1.94
Spain	n/a	43	99	2.30	-	-	-	23	66	2.87
Other	54	30	34	1.13	29	34	1.17	172	211	1.23
Total	1,168	1,640	3,273	2.00	1,178	2,274	1.93	612	1,035	1.69

CONSULTATIVE PROCESS

The Atlantic Swordfish Advisory Committee (ASAC) serves as the primary vehicle through which the Swordfish Management Plan is deliberated and developed. ASAC is one of approximately 35 species specific management advisory committees sponsored by DFO in the Scotia-Fundy Region. In turn, ASAC is supported by a working group of DFO officers who consolidate scientific, economic, marketing and other information into draft fishing plans for the Committee's consideration. Sub-committees and working groups can be established to address specific concerns.

ASAC is an Atlantic-wide Advisory Committee. ASAC's membership and terms of reference are under review to ensure adequate representation from the Scotia-Fundy, Gulf, Quebec and Newfoundland Regions.

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SUMMARY OF CURRENT ISSUES

Expansion and security of international markets are foremost concerns of the swordfish industry. Appropriate market strategies need to be designed and introduced. Industry members stress that the harvesting and processing of the swordfish stock should make optimal use of Canadian resources. In turn, international participation in the Canadian fishery should be limited and closely monitored. The current issues under review by Atlantic Swordfish Advisory Committee (ASAC) members reflect these general concerns.

1. Quotas

Currently, the 3,500 t quota has no biological base. This quota has been in place since the swordfish fishery was reopened in 1979. Biological information on the swordfish biomass is limited, restricting its usefulness in the management planning process. In 1986, the presence of reduced catch rates but higher total landings in the Canadian fishery coupled with heavy exploitation in the American fishery, indicates a reduced quota may be desirable. Preliminary biological evidence suggests that the swordfish biomass may have declined by as much as 40 percent. Some fishermen are concerned about the apparent decline in stock levels. Total fishing effort increased substantially in 1986. Without solid biological recommendations, moving beyond the 3,500 t quota would be imprudent.

The Japanese offshore tuna fleet has a by-catch allowance of 225 t of swordfish, which comes out of the Canadian quota. A quota was also established for the Canadian offshore developmental tuna fishery beginning in 1987. Each participating vessel will be permitted to take up to 60 t of swordfish as a by-catch. A maximum of two vessels will be involved.

2. Foreign Activity in Canadian Waters

Concern has been expressed repeatedly by industry members that DFO's enforcement efforts to prohibit foreign vessels from fishing swordfish illegally within the Canadian zone on Georges Bank have been inadequate. DFO advises that foreign fleet activities in the Corsair Canyon of Georges Bank will be closely monitored in 1988. Although enforcement resources are limited the protection of Canada's territorial integrity remains a high priority.

DFO's current surveillance resources limit enforcement activities to monitoring of landings and licence authorization. "At sea" sales appear to have tapered off, eliminating a contentious area of enforcement. If "at sea" sales increase significantly, enforcement efforts on this front will have to be increased.

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3. Mercury Analysis

Adamant enforcement of mercury levels on imported fresh swordfish by the United States Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) is contentious. Given that American-caught fish do not appear to receive the same scrutiny, industry members argue that the policy is discriminatory and has the potential to stifle economic benefits from this fishery. These restrictive practices have been responsible for illegal transshipping activities. The more restrictive import controls announced by the USFDA have exacerbated fishermen's dissatisfaction. Industry members favour either an end to mercury restrictions on swordfish going to the United States or the development of alternate markets at competitive prices. USFDA mercury restrictions have resulted in a significant drop in the volume of Canadian swordfish products exported to the United States.

4. Gear Conflict

Reports have been registered in recent years about conflicts between lobster/crab gear and swordfish longliners. Longliner gear has occasionally become entangled with highflyers and buoys of crab and lobster gear in 4X and 4W. Both gear types have been damaged. A representative swordfish group met with the Offshore Lobster Advisory Committee (OLAC) in 1986 to resolve the issue. The two groups recognized the need to successfully address the problem of gear entanglement.

5. Availability of Licences

The participation level in the swordfish industry has been a continuing source of conflict in recent years. In 1983, 22 new licences were issued to bring the active fleet up to a higher participation level. Continuing requests for access from fishermen from the Newfoundland and Scotia-Fundy Regions highlighted the need for the recent review of the licence limitation policy.

ASAC members recently reviewed the licensing structure for the swordfish longline fishery. The modified structure allows for new entrants and promotes the collection of data for effective stock assessment and it matches the number of active licences issued to the number of participants. Some fishermen have expressed concern that the 45' restriction on eligible vessels for new licences will deny access to small boat fishermen.

ASAC members have cautioned that substantially increased fishing effort could damage the existing stock and reduce the market potential for current participants. Given recent market and catch patterns, most industry members prefer a modest increase in effort.

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6. Biological Input and Assessment

Biological assessment of the swordfish fishery is complicated by the highly migratory patterns of the species and limited information on stock structure. Biological understanding of the size, age, sex, migratory behaviour and general stock condition of the swordfish biomass is limited because catch data provided by commercial fishermen is inadequate. Swordfish prosecuted in the Canadian fishery appear to be part of a single Northwest Atlantic stock which spawns in the Caribbean and migrates into northern waters to feed. Catch rates and average sizes in different fishing areas suggest a highly complex stock structure. Biological advice to ASAC stresses a cautious approach to the exploitation of the species. Given that the swordfish landed by the Canadian fishery may be part of a single stock, biological realities suggest that the management planning process be sensitive to third party (mostly Japan) longliner activity in international waters. Recent biological evidence indicates that excessive effort by Japan, the United States and Canada and the high capture rate of juvenile fish has led to a decline in the total stock. ASAC members stress the need for improved biological assessment by Canada of the swordfish biomass.

LICENSING POLICY

Longline Licences

This fishery is subject to limited entry regulations and restrictions. Longline licences will be limited to vessel owners who held swordfish longline licences for the proceeding calendar year. The owner of a swordfish vessel may hold dual licences for other species, such as groundfish and scallop. Replacement vessel size shall be governed by the other limited entry licence policies issued in respect of the vessel. Licensing policies for the swordfish fishery vary from Region to Region. Information on specific policies can be obtained from the various Regional Headquarters.

The following conditions of licence must appear on all swordfish licences:

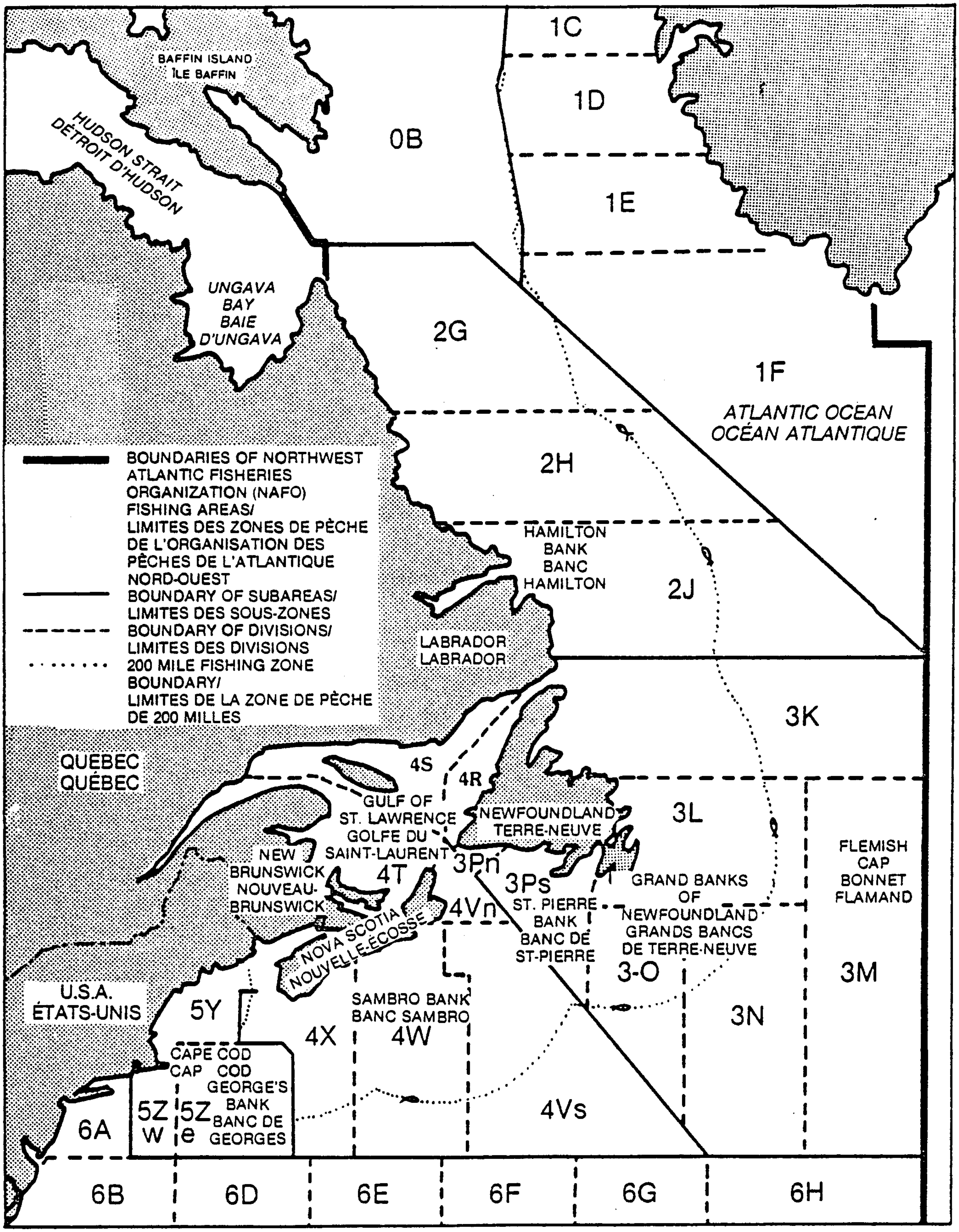
> Valid for NAFO Convention Subareas 3, 4 and 5 only, excluding Fishing Zones 1 and 2 of Canada (Gulf of St. Lawrence and Bay of Fundy).

Harpoon Licences

Swordfish harpoon licences may be issued to those vessel owners who held a swordfish licence in the preceding calendar year, or an owner of a vessel who currently holds a valid limited entry licence and is categorized as a "full-time" or "bona fide" fisherman. (For details on the licensing policy for new participants see Section 2, 1987 Atlantic Swordfish Fishing Plan.)

ATLANTIC SWORDFISH ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP LIST

Name	Organization	Address
P.E. Partington (Chairman)	DFO	Yarmouth
L. Williams	Fisherman	Lockeport
C. Stewart	Fisherman	Halifax
S. Larkin	Fisherman	Woods Harbour
E. Whiteway	Fisherman	Lockeport
H. Newell	Fisherman	Voglers Cove
F. d'Entremont	Fisherman	Lwr. W. Pubnico
G. Malloy	Fisherman	Lockeport
M. Malloy	Fisherman	Thomasville
L. Dixon	Fisherman	Woods Harbour
G. Reyno	Fisherman	Armdale
B. Allison	Fisherman	Port Mouton
S. Siegel	MFU	Yarmouth
A. Longard	Province of Nova Scotia	Halifax
G. Mossman	Province of Nova Scotia	Rose Bay
D. Aldous	DFO	Halifax
R.C. Thompson	DFO	Sydney
J. Moores	DFO	St. John's
J. Forbes	DFO	Liverpool
R. Stephenson	DFO	St. Andrews
D. Rowe	DFO	Cornerbrook
L. Muise	DFO	Port Mouton
R. Vienneau	DFO	Moncton



Atlantic Swordfish Fishery Map

NEWS RELEASE
COMMUNIQUÉ

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 28, 1988

1988 Swordfish Management Plan Announced

HALIFAX - Government-industry consultations through the Atlantic Swordfish Advisory Committee have made final the 1988 Swordfish Management Plan, J.-E. Haché, Regional Director-General of the Scotia-Fundy Region, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, announced today.

Sixteen new licences authorized last season bring the total number to 70. In recent years, landings have been well below the Total Allowable Catch. Following consultations with fishermen and processors, DFO held a draw to select qualified applicants for the additional licences in 1987.

There are no other major changes in this year's fishing plan.

The swordfish fishery is generally conducted from late July to October on the Scotian Shelf and the edge of the Grand Banks of Newfoundland. The Total Allowable Catch for 1988 remains at 3,500 tonnes, the same annual quota established for the fishery since 1980.

The Atlantic Swordfish Advisory Committee remains committed to developing and exploiting international markets to enhance the industry for swordfish fishermen and dealers. The

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recent meeting held in Bridgewater reports that markets in the United States remain strong for traditional fresh and frozen swordfish exports.

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