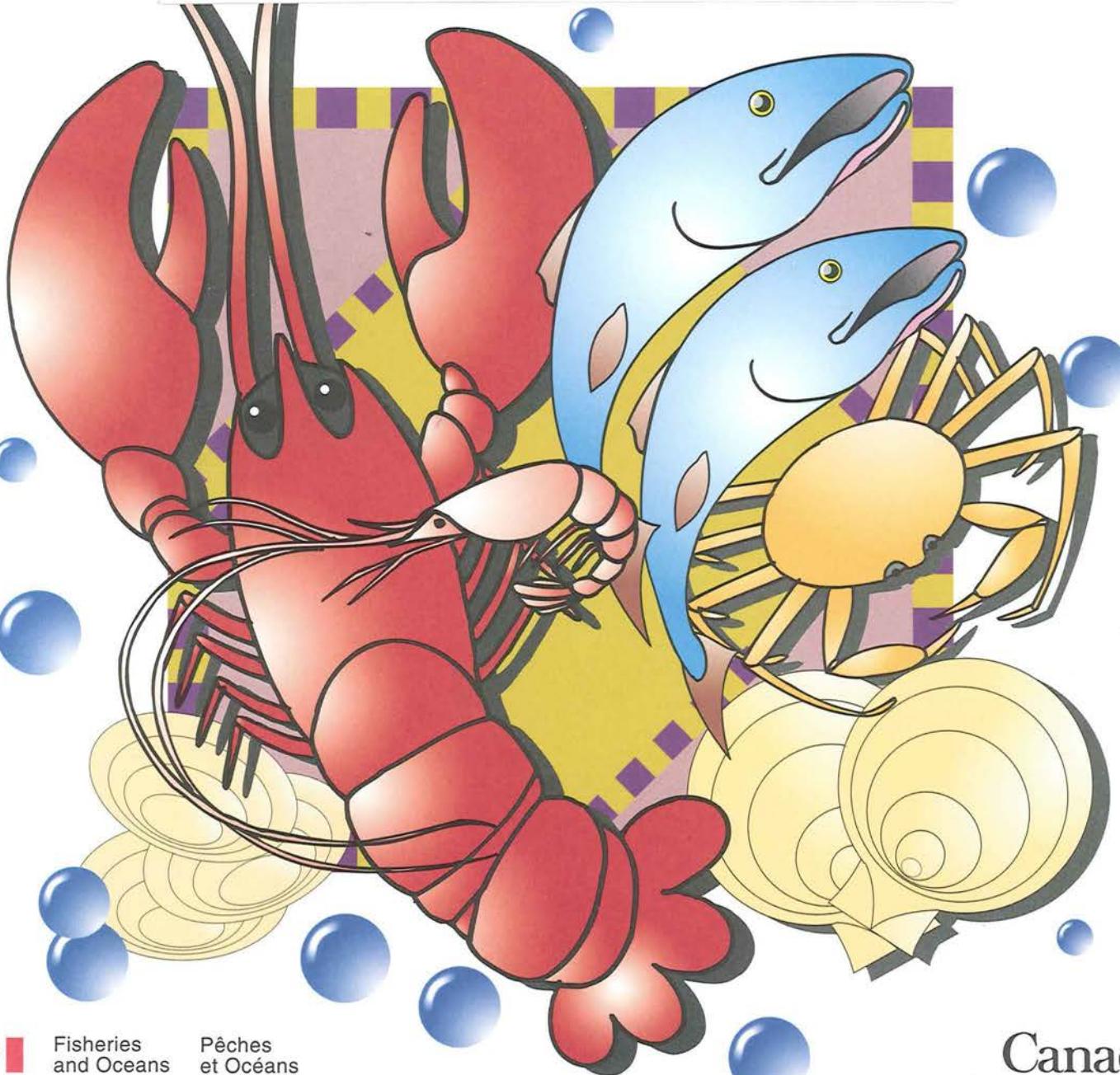


*Integrated Fisheries Management Plan*

*Sea Scallop in the Southern Gulf  
Scallop Fishing Areas 21, 22, 23, 24  
1998*



Fisheries  
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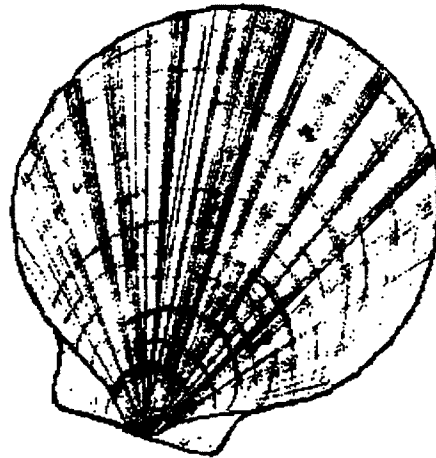
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Canada



*Integrated Fisheries Management Plan*

*Sea Scallop in the Southern Gulf  
Scallop Fishing Areas 21, 22, 23, 24  
1998*



*Placopecten magellanicus*

***Gulf Fisheries Management Region  
P. O. Box 5030  
Moncton, N.B.  
E1C 9B6***

***January 1999***

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## ***Introduction***

This is a one year plan for 1998 which covers 4 Scallop Fishing Areas (SFA) in the southern Gulf: SFA 21, 22, 23, 24.

## **1. OVERVIEW OF THE FISHERY**

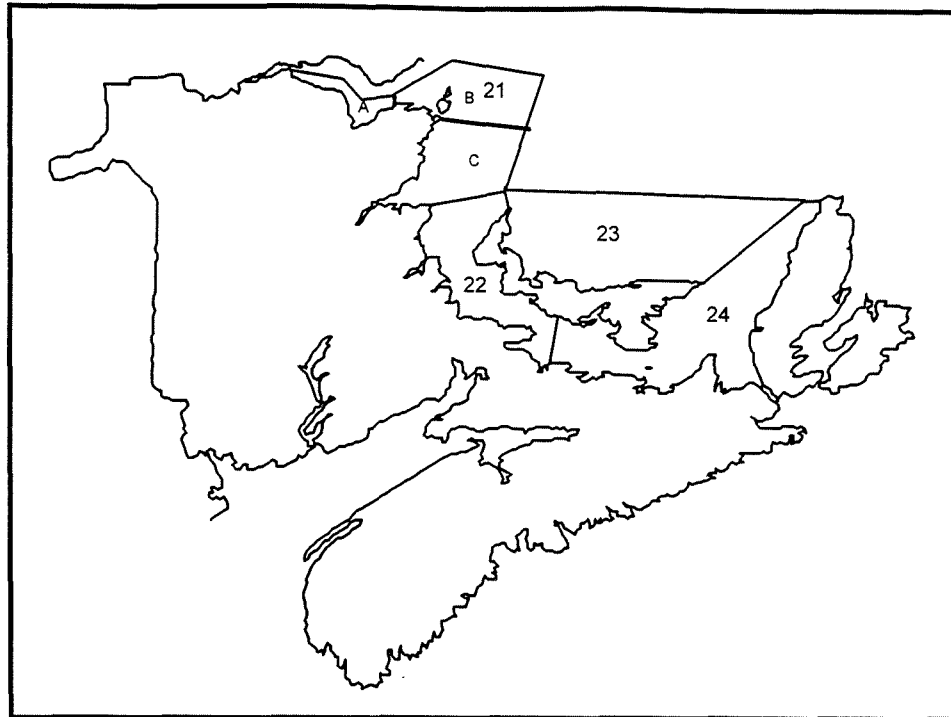
Sea scallops, also called giant or smooth scallops are the most important commercial species of molluscan shellfish in Canada. Major fishing areas in eastern Canada occur on Georges Bank, the Scotian Shelf, the Mid-Atlantic Shelf, in the Grand Manan and Digby areas of the Bay of Fundy, and for the Gulf, in the Chaleur Bay, around Îles-de-la-Madeleine and in the Northumberland Strait. The sea scallop is found in the northwest Atlantic from the northern part of the Gulf of St. Lawrence to the coastal waters of North Carolina in the US. In the northern part of this range, they occur in shallow water (less than 18 m) while in the southern portion, they are found in water deeper than 55 m. Sea scallops have supported valuable fisheries in eastern Canada for more than 100 years and were used by early native populations prior to European colonization. The first commercial landings of the scallop fishery in the Gulf were officially recorded in the early 1900's. Peaks in landings occurred in 1970 (697 t), and have since levelled off. Landed values have not followed the landings trend mainly because of unpredictable and sudden increases in prices. Scallops are harvested predominantly for the meat, but markets for roe and whole scallop in Europe and Japan have drawn industry attention. The scallop fishery in the Gulf has always been a complementary fishery to the lobster, herring and groundfish fisheries. Almost all scallop fishers hold more than one fishing licence, however a few fishers do depend on the scallop fishery as their primary income. Fishers in the Gulf harvest inshore sea scallops using vessels of about 14 m which tow digby-type buckets with mesh bags (made with rings held together with washers) over the ocean bottom. Scallops are also fished recreationally by SCUBA divers in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

### ***1.1 Participants***

There are scallop fishers licenced in each of the scallop fishing areas as follows: SFA21—107; SFA22—199; SFA23—78; SFA 24—390 for a total of 774 enterprises. This is a limited entry fishery with no increase in the number of commercial licences expected. With fishers using on average at least one crew member to assist them, this means close to 1800 individuals are involved in the harvesting sector. There are two Native bands who hold commercial licences: Abegweit First Nation on PEI and Indian Island First Nation in New Brunswick. In addition, approximately 200 recreational licences are issued in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. In 1996, there were 23 plants in the Gulf Region which processed scallops.

### ***1.2 Location of the Fishery***

The scallop fishery in the Gulf Region is divided into 4 management areas as shown on the map below.



**SCALLOP FISHING AREAS - GULF REGION**

In 1996, Area 21 was divided into three sub-areas. The sub-area concept is based on recommendations of the local Scallop Advisory Committee and on a proposal submitted to DFO by the Maritimes Fishermen's Union (MFU) on management of the scallop fishery. This initiative is aimed at facilitating the management of the SFA, promoting the recruitment and bed enhancement activities.

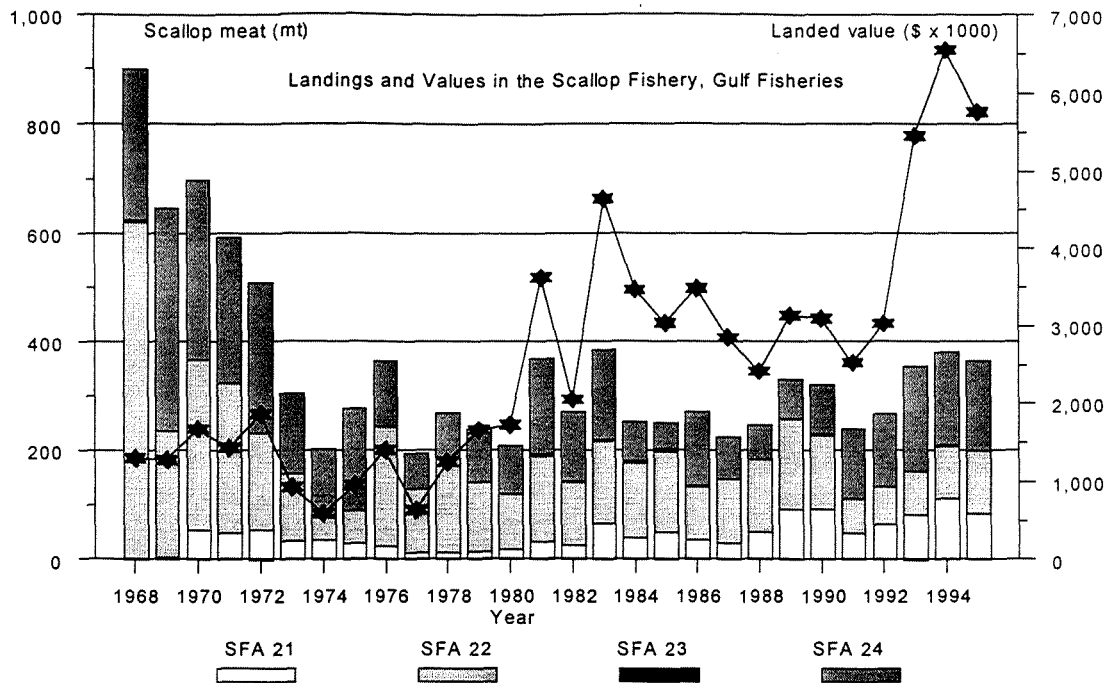
The main scallop beds are in the Chaleur Bay and throughout the Northumberland Strait with a number of small beds found on the north side of PEI.

### **1.3 Timeframe of Fishery**

The opening and closing of the fishery in each area varies according to the status of the stocks, recommendations received from industry and on ice conditions where it applies. Seasons have been reduced in the past to decrease the fishing effort on the stocks. Detailed information about seasons is presented in a subsequent section.

### **1.4 Landings/Value/Markets**

Information about the landings and values of the scallop fishery is presented in the graph below.



In 1995, the landed value of the sea scallop fishery in eastern Canada was \$89.4 million and this decreased to \$72.3 million in 1996 due to a decrease in landings. The major commercial scallop fishery occurs on Georges Bank on the south western coast of Nova Scotia with approximately 70% of Canadian scallop landings coming from there. The scallop fishery is an important component of the overall coastal fishing activities and is an important contributor to the economy of coastal areas. Since 1980, sea scallop landings reported through purchase slips have ranged from 200 t to 400 t annually contributing on average \$2-\$4 million dollars annually to the local economy. Since 1993, the value of landings has increased and were \$7.56 million in 1997. It should be noted however, that the amount and total value of landings is estimated to be significantly higher than reported as a large volume of scallops is sold as a cash sale. The price paid to fishers have increased significantly since 1993 and range from \$7 to more than \$8.50 per pound of meat, depending on the area in the Gulf.

Scallop landings in Scallop Fishing Area 21 have increased substantially from the mid 80's from approximately 29 t to as high as 112 t in 1994. Most of the scallop roe landed in the Gulf Region was reported in fishing area 21. Landings in Scallop Fishing Area 22 have fluctuated between 49 t and 313 t from 1969 to 1990. Scallop roe landings are rare as the end of the fishing season coincides with the beginning of the gonad development period. Landings in fishing Area 23 are low and sporadic compared to the other fishing areas with minimal annual fishing effort. The landings in Area 24 are characterized by an important decrease in the 1980's. The highest reported landings were in 1969 with 408 t and have decreased to approximately 100 t (average) in the late 1980's. The fishing effort has decreased by approximately 50% in mid to late 80's but increased again in the early 90's with landings increasing to 246 t in 1996 and 182 t in 1997.

Plant production of scallops in the Gulf consists mainly of fresh (70%) and frozen (30%) products. In terms of markets, the United States is by far the most important market for Gulf scallops. In 1996 and 1997, over 95% of our exports went to the U.S. with the balance going to the European market.

### 1.5 Consultative Process

Development of this management plan is undertaken through a participatory mechanism involving fishers, Aborigines, processors, provincial and departmental officials. There are Scallop Advisory Committees representing each SFA. Wherever there is a provincial overlap of fishing activities such as for Area 22 and 24, the consultative process is initiated by the Regional Office. In other cases, this is carried out by each of the DFO Area Offices. Decisions on the scallop management plan are made by the Regional Director General in the Gulf Region. Terms of reference and membership are presented in annexes.

### **1.6 Management Styles**

This fishery is managed based on input controls (instead of output controls like TAC or ITQs) such as limiting the number of permanent licences, establishment of fishing areas and fishing seasons, establishment of meat count, scallop dredge width and ring size. Further information about input controls can be found in a subsequent section of this document.

## **2. STOCK STATUS FOR 1998**

### **2.1 Biology, Environment, Habitat**

Sea scallops (*Placopecten magellanicus*) are widely distributed in coastal waters (to a depth of about 30 m) of the southern Gulf of St. Lawrence. They occur on a wide range of hard bottom types but are rare or absent from mud or silt bottoms. They occur mostly in full seawater. Water temperatures above 20 °C are usually lethal to sea scallops and have been cited as one possible cause of occasional mass mortalities of adult scallops in the southern Gulf. Sea scallops live at sediment-water interface and are filter feeders -- they feed on both benthic and pelagic food as well as fine detritus. Unlike many scallop species, the sea scallop has separate sexes. During the summer, males develop a white gonad and female gonads are red-orange. Eggs and sperm are released in the water column and fertilization occurs at sea. Spawning occurs primarily during late summer, the larvae are free swimming for 5-6 weeks before they settle to the bottom. Recruitment of larval scallops to the bottom is often patchy and highly variable due to predation, feeding conditions, water temperatures, and wind or tidal effects on currents. Scallops only contribute significantly to the reproduction when they are greater than 70mm (starting at 3 years old). Harvest of sea scallops in the southern Gulf begins at age 4 or 5.

### **2.2 Species interactions**

Newly settled sea scallop and juveniles are subject to predation by lobster, rock crab, starfish, predatory gastropods and bottom feeding fish. The main predators of scallop > 70 mm in shell height are humans. Parasites and non-harmful animals of sea scallops include several algae, burrowing polychaetes (mostly *Polydora*), burrowing sponges (*Cliona*), pea crabs (*Pinnotheres*), and fish (inquiline sea snail).

### **2.3 Assessment**

A comprehensive research survey was conducted in SFA 22 during June 1997. Data analysis is ongoing but will provide information on the abundance, distribution, size and age structure, and meat weights of scallops as well as estimates of bycatch rates for rock crab, lobster, and various fish species. Preliminary results indicate relatively low population size in SFA 22 - the highest densities observed in the entire area surveyed (which included all of the fishing grounds) were < 0.2 animals/m<sup>2</sup> (assuming dredge efficiency of 10%). Areas that yielded good catches during the 1980s now support few scallops. The last complete stock assessment survey was done in 1986. Sea and port sampling ended in 1988. Fishers are not required to keep and submit logbooks; therefore neither effort nor fishing locations are known. There is no dockside monitoring of catches. Landings statistics are based on sales slips provided by processors; however, an unknown but large portion of the catch is sold through direct sales; therefore, actual landings are unknown. Both the total landings data and crude catch rates derived from kg of meat per sale to processors do not accurately represent the catches from the southern Gulf stocks.

### **2.4. Research**

The reproduction cycle of adults has been studied and described. An in-depth study on the reproduction development of the juvenile stage to the adult stage has recently been completed. Larval recruitment to spat collectors have been conducted to locate potential economical scallop spat collection sites. Collection of spat requires seasonal monitoring of gonad maturation in various sites in the southern Gulf. Temporal studies to determine the ideal time to deploy spat collectors has been conducted in 1997 and 1998.

### **2.5 Prospects**

Many fishers are expressing serious concerns about the status of the stocks. In SFA 21 and 22 the fishers have taken pro-active steps and have initiated scallop enhancement projects. In area 24, the fishers have launched a study to identify an economical spat collection site.

### 3. LONG-TERM OBJECTIVES FOR THE FISHERY

- Undertaking adequate and regular stock assessments so as to provide accurate stock status.
- Enhance the long-term sustainability of the fishery.
- To increase industry responsibility in managing the fishery through a co-management approach.

### 4. GENERAL MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

#### 4.1 *Conservation/Sustainability*

- To develop an awareness and reinforce the mutual commitment to conservation of the scallop stocks.
- To promote the collection of accurate stock data information.
- To improve the data on catch and effort.
- To promote the development and use of good fishing practices.

#### 4.2 *International Considerations*

There are no international considerations in this fishery as it is fished by a Canadian fleet within Canadian waters.

#### 4.3 *Domestic Considerations*

##### *a) Aboriginal Fishery*

As part of the overall departmental strategy to increase Native participation in commercial fisheries, 2 bands have been issued commercial communal scallop licences through the retirement of commercial fishing effort. The Department will continue to work closely with native communities to ensure it meets the objectives of the Aboriginal Fisheries Strategy.

##### *b) Recreational Fishery*

A number of recreational licences are issued each year (a little over 200 in 1997) to fishers in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. There is no recreational fishery in PEI. Recreational fishers are allowed to keep up to 100 scallops per day. The most common method of fishing scallops recreationally is by SCUBA gear.

##### *c) Commercial*

- To optimize the use of a limited resource while achieving profitability and sustainability.
- To expand the recently completed resource survey.
- To continue to explore the potential for a bed enhancement program.
- To undertake initiatives which would contribute to a reduction in harvesting effort.

##### *d) Exploratory/Experimental*

A number of limited bed enhancement projects were initiated by fisher groups in 1996 and 1997. In each SFA spat collector bags were deployed and a commercially viable number of scallop spat per bag was obtained. Fisher groups also conducted studies on growth and survival rates of the scallop spat held in collectors. In 1997, the contents of the bags were spread over a suitable bottom and in the fall, several collector bags were set in the northern part of SFA22 and in SFA21. These projects have permitted fishers to increase their knowledge and experience in scallop enhancement techniques.

### 5. CURRENT MANAGEMENT ISSUES

#### 5.1 *Issue: Data on the Fishery*

The catch data on this fishery is weak and needs to be strengthened. In addition, there has been an inconsistent level of effort placed in doing the stock assessment; until 1997, none had been done since 1988. The current assessment model is inappropriate.

***Approach:***

The Department will be implementing a weekly reporting system whereby fishers will provide the required information directly to the Department. A resource survey was completed in 1997 in the Northumberland Strait area. The benefits of this work will be reinforced and expansion of the survey area will be recommended.

**5.2 Issue: *Exploitation Rate/Status of the Stocks***

There are currently 779 eligible fishers who are licenced to fish scallops. In the past, the level of participation has ranged between 50% and 75%. Even with participation at less than the maximum, fishers have indicated that the scallop stocks are on the decline and they have identified overfishing as the main problem in this fishery.

***Approach:***

In order to ensure the long-term sustainability of the resource, there needs to be a better balance between harvesting capacity and resource availability. A number of options could be considered by DFO and industry including such things as a reduction in the size of the fleet, shorter seasons, shorter fishing times, reduced fishing gear. DFO will continue to work with industry on exploring all options.

**5.3 Issue: *Gear Selectivity***

The ring size and the use of different types of washers affect gear selectivity.

***Approach:***

The Department and industry will work towards a more appropriate gear.

**5.4 Issue: *Fishing Seasons***

The scallop fishing seasons in the Gulf range from 5 to 15 weeks. Some fishers claim that in some areas, scallops are fished almost 24 hours a day. In addition, fishers state that the spawning period (mid-August to mid-September) should be closed.

***Approach:***

Fishing activities will for the large part be restricted to day fishing and no fishing will be permitted on Sundays. In SFAs 21 and 24, the seasons have been adjusted to minimize the impact during the spawning period and in SFA22, the season falls outside the spawning period.

**5.5 Issue: *Identification and Protection of Nursery Areas***

Fishers have identified areas with high densities of young scallops. Fishing in these areas does not appear to be profitable because of low meat yields. However, these areas have not yet been clearly documented, and it is not known if the industry would accept a closure of these nursery areas.

***Approach:***

Further discussion with industry will be required to address this issue.

**5.6 Issue: *Bed Enhancement***

Bed enhancement practices have been successful in other countries and have increased significantly the landed value of scallop.

***Approach:***

This will be the topic of further discussions with industry. Spat collection and closure of protected areas will be reviewed as well.

**5.7 Issue: *Gear conflict***

There were on occasion gear conflicts in the lobster and scallop fisheries.

***Approach:***

A one-mile buffer zone was created in Gulf Nova Scotia (SFA 24) to reduce conflicts. In addition, in SFA 23, a voluntary buffer zone has been implemented to take into consideration the lobster habitat and the potential damage to that fishery.

## 6. MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR 1998

### 6.1 Fishing Seasons

Fishing seasons for 1998 are presented in the table below.

<i>Scallop Fishing Area</i>	<i>Season</i>
21A	May 24-August 15, Sept 16-Nov. 1
21B	May 1- August 15, Oct. 1-Nov. 15
21C	June 24- Sept. 13
22	May 4- June 6
23	June 22-Sept. 9, Nov. 2-December 31
24	Oct 13-Dec. 31

### 6.2 Control and Monitoring of Fishing Activities

The table below presents the controls used in this fishery.

<i>SFA</i>	<i>Licences</i>	<i>Day Fishing</i>	<i>Gear</i>	<i>Drag Size outside measurement</i>	<i>Meat Count</i>
21A	29	5:30-20:00 6:30-18:00	min. 3" rings	max. 20'	39 meat/500 gm
21B	31	24 hours a day	min. 3" rings	max. 20'	39 meat/500 gm
21C	47	5:30-20:00 closed Sundays	min. 3" rings	max. 20'	39 meat/500 gm
22	199	5:30-20:00 closed Sundays	min. 3" rings	max. 16'	52 meat/500 gm
23	78	6:00-20:00 closed Sundays	min. 3" rings	max. 21' 6"	33 meat/500 gm
24	390	06:00-18:00 closed Sundays	min. 3" rings	max. 16' 8"	52 meat/500 gm

### 6.3 Reporting of Catches

Beginning in 1998, mandatory weekly report of scallop landings will be introduced to obtain more accurate data on landings. Fishers will be required to maintain a record of their estimated catches in a logbook prior to entering port. These logbooks will be forwarded weekly to DFO by individual fishers.

## 7. ENFORCEMENT ISSUES AND STRATEGIES

### 7.1 Overview

The primary enforcement issue in the scallop fishery is compliance with the scallop meat counts. This is achieved by on land and at sea surveillance by Fishery Officers. Other enforcement issues include, drag size requirements, licence requirements, illegal retention of lobsters, closed areas and closed times (daily and weekend closures).

### 7.2 Main Program Activities

The main program activities are done by Fishery Officers on patrol, on land and at sea, with program and patrol vessels.

### 7.3 Fishery Patrol Vessels

Patrol boats are used to monitor boundary lines between the four fishing areas. They are also used as a platform for Fishery Officers to verify meat counts, drag sizes, licence requirements and illegal retention of lobsters.

#### **7.4 Enforcement Issues and Strategies**

##### **Species Restrictions**

- Inspections are carried out by Fishery Officers at sea and at the landing sites to ensure compliance with the scallop meat counts.
- Inspections are carried out by Fishery Officers on land and at sea to ensure that lobsters are not being kept as a by-catch.

##### **Gear Restrictions**

- Fishery Officers conduct inspections at sea and at the landing sites to ensure compliance with the regulated drag sizes.
- Inspections are carried out to ensure compliance with the regulated ring size on drags.

##### **Licence Requirements**

- Licence checks for specific areas. Done by Fishery Officers at sea and at the landing sites.
- Vessel Registration, Crew Registration and Vessel Registration Number displayed: Verified by Fishery Officers at sea, and at the landing sites.

##### **Closed areas/ Closed times**

- Sea surveillance will be used to monitor open and closed areas as well as weekend and daily closed times.

##### **Summary**

Enforcement of the scallop fishery is achieved by the application of the Fisheries Act, and other Regulations under the Atlantic Fisheries Regulations and the Fisheries (General) Regulations. The enforcement is carried out by Fishery Officer inspections done on land and at sea.

**ANNEX I**  
*Management Plan Evaluation Criteria*

- Reporting of data on a timely and accurate basis.
  - Essential data to assess the health of scallop stocks were collected and supplied to Science.
  - Feedback from industry is positive.
- 

**ANNEX II**  
*Conservation & Protection Plan Evaluation Criteria*

- Number of at sea boardings - includes species identification, quantities and size limits
- Number of inspections at the wharf - includes species identification, quantities and size limits
- Gear inspections at sea, including total sea days
- Number of stakeouts
- Number of vehicle inspections
- Number of licensing checks
- Number of inspections regarding Vessel Registration Numbers (VRN) - at sea, at the wharf and by air
- Number of plant/buyers/processors inspected
- Number of sightings of fishing vessels
- Number of recorded complaints and action taken
- Number of violations recorded - including official warnings issued
- Number of prosecutions
- Number of successful prosecutions
- Amount of fines realized as a result of successful prosecutions
- Seizures from persons unknown - includes value of seizures
- Number of forfeitures through courts - includes value of forfeitures
- Number of sanctions/suspensions actioned by the courts or DFO
- Number of hours re investigations - including preparation for sanctions, court and court appearance
- Number of hours spent on surveillance by Fishery Officers - includes time spent by all Enforcement personnel at both the Regional and Area level to organize, implement and supervise the enforcement effort
- Feedback from industry
- Statistical Information

**ANNEX III**  
*Consultative Group*

**Terms of Reference**  
**Scallop Fishing Areas Advisory Committees**

**Purpose**

Each of the Scallop Fishing Area Advisory Committees is the focal point for consultations between the Department, commercial scallop fishers, Aboriginal fishers, buyers, processors, and provincial governments. Committees review and advise on policies, programs and concerns related to the scallop fishery in each of their SFAs. Committees promote better management of the scallop industry and encourage greater communication between harvesters, processors and government agencies.

**Scope**

Committees will function as an advisory body similar to other fisheries management advisory committees and provide advice via the DFO representatives to the Regional Director General, Gulf Region. Each Committee will operate on a consensus basis without formal voting procedures. The Chairman may establish sub-committees to review and assess the implications of policy options being considered. Committees will normally meet once per year, during the winter months, with additional meetings being convened in extraordinary circumstances.

**Membership**

Each Committee is represented by commercial fishers, Aboriginals, provincial governments, fish buyers, processors, and the Department. Membership on each Committee is similar as presented below. As required, DFO ensures the availability of resource persons to the Committees, including advisors on biology, economics and markets. The Chairman and members of each Committee are appointed for a one-year duration with provisions for extensions or reappointments at the discretion of the Regional Director General. Appointments of substitute or alternative members are subject to the approval of the Chairman.

*Membership Structure:*

- Chairman from DFO
- Fisher from province(s) boundaried by SFA(s)
- Native bands
- Provincial representative(s) from province(s) boundaried by SFA(s)
- Senior Policy Advisor for scallops from DFO
- DFO representative(s) from Area Office(s) boundaried by SFA(s)

**Administration**

The Chairman is responsible for the administration functions associated with each committee, including minutes of meetings, arrangements for meeting facilities and distribution of documents.

## *Committee Membership*

<b>Scallop Fishing Area 21</b>
Maritime Fishermen's Union
N.B. Aboriginal Peoples Council
Eel River Bar First Nation
Burnt Church First Nation
New Brunswick Dept. of Fisheries and Aquaculture
Fisheries and Oceans Canada

<b>Scallop Fishing Area 22</b>
Maritime Fishermen's Union
PEI Fishermen's Association
Indian Island First Nation
Lennox Island First Nation
Abegweit First Nation
Native Council of PEI
PEI Department of Fisheries and Tourism
New Brunswick Dept. of Fisheries and Aquaculture
Fisheries and Oceans Canada

<b>Scallop Fishing Area 23</b>
PEI Fishermen's Association
Eastern King's Fishermen Association
North Shore Fishermen's Association
Western Gulf Fishermen's Association
Lennox Island First Nation
Abegweit First Nation
Native Council of PEI
Processor
PEI Department of Fisheries and Tourism
Fisheries and Oceans Canada

<b>Scallop Fishing Area 24</b>
Maritime Fishermen's Union - Local 4
PEI Fishermen' Association
Northumberland Fishermen's Association
Inverness North Fishermen's Association
Gulf Bonafide Fishermen's Association
Lennox Island First Nation
Abegweit First Nation
Native Council of PEI
PEI Department of Fisheries and Tourism
Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries
Fisheries and Oceans Canada

**ANNEX IV**  
***DFO Roles and Responsibilities***

**Resource Management**

Takes the lead in bringing the various sectors and elements of the management plan together to develop the management options; responsible for consultations with industry and provinces; responsible for managing pre-, in-, post-season processes; responsible for drafting the Integrated Fisheries Management Plan.

**Science**

Provides the stock and fishery assessment on an annual basis; indicates any conservation concerns; provides advice on the appropriateness of management options to address conservation concerns; specifies what, if any, data requirements they need to have to facilitate in-season adjustments and post-season evaluations; advises of research projects required for proper assessment of the stock.

**Aboriginal Affairs**

Ensures legal obligations or policies are addressed; negotiates and approves fisheries agreements with aboriginal groups.

**Conservation and Protection**

Identifies enforcement problems to be addressed in the development of the management plan; suggests specific enforcement measures to address enforcement issues; develops proposed enforcement plans and carries them out.

**Policy**

Provides input on international obligations or concerns; responsible for making regulatory changes required in support of management plan.

**Communications**

Provides advice on developing appropriate strategies for communicating management plans and for developing appropriate communications materials to accompany the plans.

**Departmental Contacts**

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**ANNEX V**  
*Press Release*

NR-M-98-05E

April 17, 1998

**1998 SOUTHERN GULF SCALLOP MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**MONCTON** -- The Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), Maritimes Region, today announced the 1998 Southern Gulf Scallop Management Plan for Scallop Fishing Areas 21, 22, 23, and 24. Scallop Fishing Area 21 includes the waters off New Brunswick in Chaleur Bay and the Acadian Peninsula coastline. SFA 22 represents the portion of the Northumberland Strait between New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. SFA 23 includes the waters north of Prince Edward Island while SFA 24 encompasses the Northumberland Strait area between Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island.

The 1998 Scallop Management Plan continues to address and reduce fishing pressure on local scallop populations by promoting conservation practices and stock rebuilding. The Department supports the discussions currently ongoing among fishers' organizations on scallop enhancement initiatives.

Both DFO and the industry reiterate their mutual commitment to scallop conservation through regulations and responsible fishing practices. The following management and conservation measures have been developed as a result of the consultations held with the industry.

**MANAGEMENT MEASURES - FISHING SEASONS**

Beginning in 1998, mandatory weekly reporting of scallop landings will be introduced to obtain more accurate data on landings. Fishers will be required to maintain a record of their estimated catches in a logbook prior to entering port. These logbooks will be forwarded weekly to DFO by individual fishers.

DFO Science plans to conduct, in 1998, a baseline survey of existing scallop resource in Area 21, in an effort to assess the current status of the stock and ascertain future stock recruitment potential. This is the continuation of the scientific work carried out in 1997 in Area 22 with the objective to extend to other SFA's in the future.

In all Scallop Fishing Areas, the 3" ring size in the scallop drag construction will be applied in 1998.

**AREA 21**

The fishing sub-zones introduced in 1996 to limit exploitation levels are maintained.

- Meat count : 39 per 500 gm.
- Drag size : maximum scallop drag width of 20' (outside measurements).
- Fishing seasons :       21A - May 24 to August 15 and September 16 to November 1.  
                              21B - May 1 to August 15 and October 1 to November 15.  
                              21C - June 24 to September 13.
- In Area 21A and 21B, fishing will closed from August 16 to September 15 in order not to disrupt the scallop spawning period. Fishing restrictions on Sundays and night fishing will apply again this year.
- Scallop fishers in sub-zones 21A have agreed to restrict their activities to water depths greater than 7 - 8 fathoms to protect lobster grounds and create a buffer zone for enhancement projects.

**AREA 22**

- Fishing season : May 4 until June 6, 1998.
- Day fishing : between 05:30 hours and 20:00 hours daily. The fishery will be closed on Sundays.
- Drag size : maximum scallop drag width of 16' remains in effect.

- Meat count : 52 per 500 gm of meat.

In consideration for 1999, the industry representatives are currently reviewing the possibility of increasing the ring size to 3¼". A decision will be forthcoming on this matter in the near future.

#### **AREA 23**

- Fishing season : June 22 to September 9 and from November 2 to December 31.
- Day fishing : between 06:00 hours and 20:00 hours daily for period June 22 to September 9. The fishery will be closed on Sundays.
- Drag size : maximum scallop drag width 21 feet 6 inches will be in effect.
- Meat count : 33 per 500 gm of meat.

#### **AREA 24**

Beginning in 1998, this fishery is a fall fishery only. The decision to close the spring fishery in Scallop Fishing Area 24 was originally announced last year following extensive consultations with the industry. The season in the spring was shortened in 1996 and 1997 to allow for a period of adjustment for fishers. This measure is aimed at reducing the fishing effort in order to contribute to conservation and sustainability in this fishery.

- Fishing season : October 13 until December 31, 1998.
- Day fishing : between 06:00 hours until 18:00 hours daily. The fishery will be closed on Sundays.
- Drag size : maximum dimension 16 feet 8 inches (outside measurements).
- Meat count : 52 per 500 gm of meat.

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