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Fisheries Management Plan: 1987

Scotia-Fundy Region

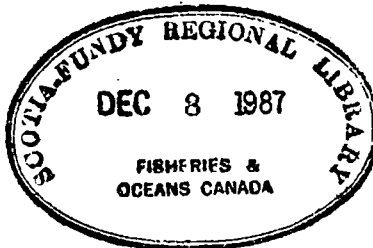
Offshore Scallop



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1987 Offshore Scallop Fishery Management Plan

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THE 1987 OFFSHORE SCALLOP MANAGEMENT PLAN

1987 OFFSHORE SCALLOP FISHERY PLAN OBJECTIVES

The 1987 Offshore Scallop Management Plan is oriented toward two general objectives as developed by the Offshore Scallop Advisory Committee (OSAC). First, the conservation and prudent management of a limited and valuable fishery resource. Second, to provide reasonable access to Georges Bank for current participants in the offshore scallop fishery, given the available resource. From these general objectives come five more specific concerns and considerations.

1. Increased Stability

Industry representatives on OSAC have expressed concern about the recent instability in annual landings. This instability was highlighted by the 1984 catch (1,945 t), the lowest landing on record. OSAC's endorsement of the Total Allowable Catch/Enterprise Allocation (TAC/EA) regime in the 1985-86 management plan gives full support to the design and intent of this harvesting strategy. Lower meat counts have not only proven to be a useful conservation measure, but they have also allowed for the optimal use of different year classes. Annual landings on Georges Bank should be marked by relative stability due to the gradual and continuous restocking of the scallop beds. Some fluctuations in TAC's will always occur, given the wide variability in recruitment patterns inherent in scallop populations.

2. Improved Biological Input and Advice

OSAC members recognize the need to tie the setting of TAC's and EA's to sound, reliable biological data. The Canadian Atlantic Fisheries Scientific Advisory Committee's (CAFSAC) advice on the 1987 TAC was a key facet of the Offshore Scallop Management Plan. Detailed information on scallop stocks improves industry's capacity to make long-term investment decisions, and it assists the Department in executing its conservation policies. Finally, biological advice can assist industry in its efforts to achieve the optimal use of annual yields and pending year classes.

3. Reduction in Harvesting Capacity to Improve Economic Viability

A strong consensus exists among OSAC members that the current number of available licences and vessels does not represent the optimal level of harvesting capacity. A reduction in harvesting capacity is needed. The 1987 Scallop Management Plan recognizes this objective by favouring the continued use of the EA program. EA's can provide the spark for eventual fleet rationalization and a lessening of overcapitalization in the offshore scallop fishery. The EA Program encourages companies to harvest their share of the allowable catch in the most efficient manner. Over time, this approach can result in a level of harvesting capacity that is more closely matched to the available scallop resource. If the TAC/EA regime sponsors fleet rationalization, economic viability can become a dominant feature of the offshore scallop industry. Fleet owners should begin to receive a reasonable rate of return on their investments.

Fishermen employed in the offshore fishery should receive, in turn, higher average incomes and participate in a less regimented and exhausting work environment.

4. Introduction of New Initiatives and Programs

The industry and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) are committed to the identification and introduction of programs which will generate economic wealth by improving product quality, resource utilization and increase market shares. Maximum benefits can be acquired by fishing to optimum market size and minimizing incidental mortality. On this front, the 1987 Scallop Management Plan provides for the cautious development of a roe fishery, subject to DFO monitoring and guidelines.

THE 1987 OFFSHORE SCALLOP FISHING PLAN

The Interim Plan

In December 1986, OSAC provided advice on an interim management plan for 1987. The interim plan was to be reviewed in April 1987 when formal CAFSAC advice became available. The interim plan, announced on January 13, 1987, had four main features.

1. Interim Total Allowable Catch (TAC)

An interim TAC of 5,378 t was set, eight percent of which (430 t) was to be allocated to the Bay of Fundy inshore fleet, as per the October 1986 Inshore-Offshore Agreement. The offshore fleet was left a TAC of 4,948 t. This quota was subject to the experimental Enterprise Allocation Program (for more information, see the document "Enterprise Allocations in the Offshore Scallop Fishery").

2. Meat Count Limits

For 1987, the meat count remained at 33/500 g for 4X+5, and an interim meat count of 44/500 g was set for 4VW. The St. Pierre plan would be finalized following consultation on the impact of the boundary question. Until then, 3Ps would remain voluntarily closed.

3. Administration and Enforcement

The administrative and enforcement rules used in 1986 would apply in 1987, including the voluntary hail mechanism. The special provisions for 4VW trips remained in place.

The Final Plan

Advice for the final 1987 Offshore Scallop Management Plan was tabled by OSAC in late April 1987. The plan was announced by the Minister on June 4, 1987. The plan has six principle features.

1. Harvesting Strategy

In response to the newness of the CAFSAC process on TAC advice and concern over harvest levels by American and Bay of Fundy fleets, a conservative harvesting strategy was favoured by OSAC members. The harvesting strategy was set close to $F_{0.1}$ rather than F_{max} . This strategy represents a decrease in fishing effort over earlier years. This tamed fishing effort should assure some level of stability in future years with the potential of less important year classes entering the fishery.

2. Revised TAC

The final TAC for 1987 was set at 6,850 t, eight percent of which (548 t) going to the Bay of Fundy inshore fleet. This level of harvest (F_{max} was 9,249 t) should contribute to the rebuilding of the biomass for the long-term benefit of the industry.

3. Enterprise Allocations (EA's)

The Enterprise Allocation Program will continue as described in the document "Enterprise Allocations in the Offshore Scallop Fishery" (dated June 1986, as amended). 1987 is the second year of the three-year trial introduction program.

4. Meat Count Limits

33/500 g for 4X+5
44/500 g for 4VW
33/500 g for 3Ps¹

5. Trip Limitations

13,700 kg/trip, 12 days dock-to-dock.

¹ 3Ps was closed until further notice on May 29, 1987, with the concurrence of the industry, due to small scallops in the catches.

6. Roe Fishery

The plan allows for the careful, orderly development of a roe fishery. Three caveats are included. Efforts in the roe fishery should be sensitive to the possible presence of paralytic shellfish poisoning (PSP); they should not upset the integrity of the size limits and they should be consistent with TAC/EA enforcement. DFO will develop the necessary safeguards and procedures with interested companies.

In the interim, DFO will authorize up to two experimental/developmental projects. The projects will allow for the orderly testing of PSP and the establishment of handling procedures that will minimize the possibility of mixing inshore scallops (where PSP levels are known to be very high) with offshore scallops.

7. Inshore Access to Georges Bank

In response to OSAC's concerns, DFO affirmed its commitment and responsibility to monitor inshore activity on Georges Bank. (For details, see the 1987 Scotia-Fundy Inshore Scallop Fishing Management Plan.)

8. Administrative Procedures

To ensure the integrity of the plan, OSAC advised that the administrative and enforcement packages used in 1986 remain in effect for 1987. They are highlighted as follows (details can be found in "Enterprise Allocations in the Offshore Scallop Fishery").

(a) Hail Requirements

The operator of an offshore fishing vessel shall not land or permit to be landed any scallops or scallop meats from any fishing area unless he first notifies a Fishery Officer as to when and where the landing will take place. A notification of 12 hours must be given by the vessel. (Vessel owners and skippers have been advised of local contact numbers. In the Newfoundland Region hails are to be announced by contacting DFO at 1-709-772-4089.) A violation of the plan will have occurred if scallops are landed before that time or at a place other than those stated in the hail.

(b) Licensing Procedures for 3Ps and 4VW

Vessels fishing in 3Ps or 4VW are to restrict their efforts to a single sector per trip. Trips to 3Ps or 4VW shall only be made after a condition of licence is issued to the owner of the affected vessel and affixed to the licence. The condition of licence renders the vessel's licence valid for Area 3Ps or 4VW as applicable. It must be signed by a signing officer of the company and it must be on board the vessel for the duration of the trip. Departmental officers should be provided with as much warning as possible in order that trips are not unnecessarily delayed.

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

Canadian participation in the offshore scallop fishery on Georges Bank began in the mid-1940's. The bulk of the offshore fleet was constructed between 1962 and 1967 (58 wooden vessels). Since 1976, 9 new steel vessels and 2 new wooden vessels have been introduced to the fleet. Fishing strategies and gear types remained essentially unchanged until 1986. In 1972, limited entry was introduced based on economic and biological advice that registered concern about the level of capital investment in the fishery relative to the available resource. The number of licences is now set at 76; there were 69 active vessels in the fleet during the 1986 fishing year.

Between 1960 and 1972, catches on Georges Bank averaged 5,200 t. Fishing activity was concentrated on the northeast part of the Bank, though the Canadian fleet had access to all scallop beds on Georges Bank. In 1977, the United States and Canada declared 200-mile fishing zones. Canadian access to the Bank became limited to a disputed zone. Landings between 1977 and 1984 dropped from 13,000 t to 2,000 t, a combined result of overfishing and poor recruitment to the fishery. The 1984 landing was the lowest catch on record since 1957.

In October 1984, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) established an international boundary in the Gulf of Maine. The division awarded the northeast portion of Georges Bank to Canada. This portion is considered to host the most lucrative scallop resource on the Banks. The ICJ decision set the stage for the introduction of more effective conservation and management strategies.

Up to 1985, the primary conservation method, consistent with biological advice, was size limits (meat counts). Meat counts were introduced in 1977, based on recommendations from the Offshore Scallop Advisory Committee (OSAC). (OSAC was set up in 1972, with representation from fishermen, owners/processors, and provincial government and DFO advisors, to provide advice on the management of the fishery.) The meat count limit has been reduced in steps from 66/500 g to the current level of 33/500 g.

In October 1986, an agreement was struck between the inshore and offshore scallop fisheries. This agreement calls for the permanent separation of the fleets and the phasing out of the inshore effort on Georges Bank by 1989. (Since 1977, the inshore could land 2.9 percent of the offshore's catch from the previous year.) This agreement pushed forward the use of total allowable catches (TAC's--first introduced for the 1986 fishing year) and the experimental use of enterprise allocations (EA's) for three years in the offshore scallop fishery. A TAC was introduced to allow for the effective conservation and restoration of the resource. The EA harvesting strategy should lead to the much needed and desired rationalization of the offshore fleet.

The current conservation and management strategies have been relatively effective. Since 1984, the scallop beds in Georges Bank have begun to recover from overexploitation. The 1985 landings were 3,800 t, 4,900 t for 1986 and 1987 catches are projected, under current management strategies, to reach some 6,900 t. The long-term annual average landing of the offshore scallop fishery from the Canadian portion of Georges Bank is estimated to be about 6,000 t.

FISHERY PROFILE

Over the last decade, the physical dimensions of scallop grounds used by Canadian fishermen on Georges Bank have decreased so that a little over 50 percent of the potential scallop production remains available to Canada east of the ICJ line. Recent productivity of the Canadian sector has averaged about 6,000 t per year; strong recruitment pulses have allowed peak landings, over 11,000 t in 1977-78. Continuous high effort over diminishing stocks led, in 1984, to the lowest catches since 1959.

Historically, the offshore fleet has depended more heavily on Georges Bank than the inshore fleet. In financial terms, the scallop resource represents the most important component of the Georges Bank fishery. In recent years, it has accounted for more than 70 percent of the total landed value for all species taken from the Bank.

Table I: Annual Offshore Fleet¹ Scallop Catches 1983-1987 (All Areas)
(Quantity (Q) in Metric Tonnes, Value (V) in Thousand Dollars)

Year	Q	V
1983	4,377	48,060
1984	2,738	33,639
1985	3,920	40,593
1986	5,367	55,757
1987*	6,850	70,000

¹ Offshore scallop fleet consists of vessels all greater than 19.8 m in length.

* The Quantity and Value for 1987 are projected figures.

Fleet Profile

The condition of the offshore scallop fleet is deteriorating with many vessels approaching the end of their useful life. To pass vessel inspection standards, these vessels will require major capital investments. Two new wooden vessels were added to the fleet in 1986, and a number of older steel vessels were licensed to fish scallops as replacements for older wooden

vessels. In 1986, 33 percent (23) of the active scallop fleet was comprised of wooden vessels over 20 years old and 33 percent (23) of the active vessels were made of wood and built after 1965. The remainder (28 percent) of the fleet is comprised of steel vessels, nine of which were constructed after 1976 and the other seven vessels were constructed prior to 1976.

Table II: Active* Vessels by Class 1982-1987

Class	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987 ¹
1	9	9	9	9	10	9
2	7	7	7	7	13	7
3	28	27	26	25	23	20
4	32	31	31	27	23	14
Total	76	74	73	68	69	50

Class 1 - new steel vessels built in 1976 or later.
Class 2 - older steel vessels built before 1976.
Class 3 - wooden vessels built in 1965 or later.
Class 4 - wooden vessels built before 1965.

* Active is defined as having a recorded landing of scallops during the fishing year.

¹ Up to April, 1987.

The offshore scallop fishery is currently prosecuted by about 60 vessels in the 29 m to 41 m range, operating from Riverport, Lunenburg, Yarmouth, Liverpool, Port Mouton, Lockeport and Saulnierville, Nova Scotia (nine other vessels landed scallops but spent less than 50 days at sea in 1986). The fleet is dependent exclusively on scallops. It is not licensed for other species.

Each vessel employs 15 to 16 crew members and, depending on fishing success, stays at sea for up to 12 days. Approximately 870 to 920 crew members are employed on the active vessels. Each active vessel, while in port, may be serviced by up to eight employees and a number of other jobs result from indirect or induced economic effects. Crew members receive approximately 41 percent of the value of the landed catch. In 1986, crew members would have earned, on average, \$25,040.

Companies and Plant Locations

The following companies currently process fresh and frozen scallops from the offshore fishery:

<u>Company</u>	<u>Plant Location</u>
Scotia Trawler & Equipment Ltd.	Lunenburg
Mersey Seafoods Ltd.	Liverpool
Clearwater Fine Foods Inc. (C.W. MacLeod Ltd.) (Pierce Fisheries Ltd.) (Island Pride Fisheries)	Central Port Mouton/Lockeport
L. Sweeney Fisheries Ltd. Comeau's Seafoods	Yarmouth Saulnierville

Fishery Products International and Adams and Knickle vessels participate in the offshore scallop fishery. Catches are processed by independent plants.

The Georges Bank scallop fishery is of paramount importance to communities in Southwestern Nova Scotia. It is a traditional source of employment and pivotal to the vibrancy of local economies.

Market Trends and Forecasts

Strong demand conditions are expected to prevail in Canada and the United States. Strong demand though, has not ensured price stability. High import levels in the United States and higher scallop landings in the United States and Canada in recent years, leading to higher than normal inventory levels in the United States, have served to depress current prices. As compared to 12,370 t in 1984 and 19,067 t in 1985, the United States imported 21,735 t of scallops in 1986, primarily from Canada, Japan, Peru and Iceland. Specifically, the United States imported 6,086 t of scallops from Canada. Canada's share of the United States scallop market has declined rapidly since 1982 when it stood at 72 percent. Competition from Peru and Japan and in 1986 from Panama has pushed the Canadian share of the American market below 30 percent despite recent increases in scallop landings in Canada.

Increases in recent Canadian catches and variability of supply from other exporting nations should result in some resurgence in Canada's share of the American market. Recent efforts to promote scallop meats and "roe-on" products in European markets may result in alternate opportunities for Canadian exporters.

Table III: Canadian Atlantic Coast Scallop Production 1984-1986
(Product Weight-Tonnes)

Scallops	1984	1985*	1986*
Fresh/Frozen Shucked	5,027	5,600	6,800

* Preliminary

Table IV: Canadian Exports of Frozen Scallops by Country 1984-1986
(Quantity (Q) in Tonnes, Value (V) in Thousand Dollars)

Country	1984		1985		1986	
	Q	V	Q	V	Q	V
France	19	121	20	129	-	-
West Germany	0	2	29	290	-	-
Switzerland	11	136	-	-	10	68
Japan	10	100	7	54	8	44
Bermuda	2	44	0	1	-	-
U.S.A.	2,940	45,777	4,068	59,153	4,213	64,837
Other	2	32	3	53	16	271
Total	2,984	46,212	4,127	59,677	4,247	65,220

Table V: Canadian Export of Fresh/Chilled Scallops by Country 1984-1986
(Quantity (Q) in Tonnes, Value (V) in Thousand Dollars)

Country	1984		1985		1986	
	Q	V	Q	V	Q	V
U.S.A.	1,046	16,474	1,510	21,597	1,853	27,736
Other	14	135	0	1	1	28
Total	1,060	16,609	1,510	21,598	1,854	27,764

SUMMARY OF CURRENT ISSUES

The offshore scallop sector has recorded some impressive results in the rebuilding of the Georges Bank scallop stocks. Through a variety of effective conservation and management strategies, the overexploited scallop beds have begun to recover. The restoration and maintenance of a healthy scallop stock for the offshore fishery remains a preeminent concern of the industry and DFO. Among other issues affecting the offshore scallop fishery:

1. The 1984 ICJ decision gave Canada 50 to 60 percent of the available stock on Georges Bank. The delineation of a United States-Canada boundary in the Gulf of Maine provided the thrust for the introduction of a more rational, comprehensive approach to the management of the offshore scallop fishery. OSAC will continue to identify strategies that may sponsor long-term stability in this fishery.

2. The implementation of TAC's and EA's in 1986-1988 has introduced the possibility of long-term economic viability for the owners, processors and fishermen who will participate in the offshore fishery. Reasonable rates of return on capital investments and higher annual incomes should become dominant features of the fishery. EA's, as well, should lead to a process of fleet rationalization and a long-sought reduction in harvesting capacity.
3. Tensions between the offshore and inshore sectors have not fully abated, despite the separation of fleets in the October 1986 Inshore/ Offshore Agreement. Industry members and DFO remain committed to the implementation and enforcement of the agreement. OSAC members continue to petition DFO for adequate enforcement and surveillance measures to enforce the 43°40' line and the conditions governing the inshore fleet's access to Georges Bank during the 1987-1988 phase out.
4. TAC's, EA's, a strengthened consultation process and improved intersector communications have infused the offshore fishery with more stability than in recent years. Annual landings between 1985 and 1987 have not been marked by erratic fluctuations, compared to the 1972-1984 period. In addition, two significant year classes will be available in 1987-1988, improving catch stability. OSAC members remain concerned about the possibility of future poor recruitment. The need for improved biological investigation and input has been stressed by OSAC industry members.
5. The pending development of a roe fishery has the potential to improve resource utilization. DFO has advised industry members it will closely monitor PSP (Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning) content and it stressed the need to monitor the integrity of size limits and TAC/EA enforcement. Mechanisms for sampling will be introduced by the Department when they become available.
6. A small by-catch of groundfish is a traditional feature of the offshore scallop fishery. DFO has expressed concern that current by-catch landings may be exceeding historical averages. If so, resistance from groundfish fishermen may develop. DFO intends to monitor the situation closely.
7. Fishermen's opposition to enterprise allocations remains on the offshore fishery agenda. The possibility of employment reduction concerns some offshore crews.
8. The setting of 33/500 g meat count for 3Ps in 1987 should prevent the overexploitation of this sector. Consequently, there should be a significant fishery on St. Pierre Bank in 1988.

9. Industry members charge that the introduction of new regulations or amendments to the Atlantic Fishery Regulations, 1985 has not kept pace with recent changes in the management of the offshore scallop fishery. In particular, they note that an adequate regulatory base has not been set up to permit the displacement of the voluntary hail system with a mandatory one. DFO stresses that a detailed package of regulations designed to ensure the successful attainment of conservation and economic objectives has been submitted to the normal regulatory process. Industry members have requested a package of strict penalties to deter overfishing. The package can be used by the courts when reviewing violations of fishery regulations.
10. The "soaking" of shucked scallops with fresh water to increase product weight by offshore vessels concerns DFO and the industry. Such techniques violate the Fish Inspection Regulations.
11. Progressive conservation and restoration strategies introduced into the offshore scallop fishery greatly diminish the need to maintain the Scallop Certification Program. DFO has advised American offshore scallop authorities of this progress and will seek the elimination of the Program.
12. OSAC's concern about a possible Texaco oil exploration program on Georges Bank is to be presented to the company via the Gulf of Maine Advisory Committee (GOMAC).
13. DFO stresses the need to use access fees to cover some of the management costs for the offshore scallop industry. The introduction of access fees will be reviewed by OSAC.

CONSULTATIVE PROCESS

The Offshore Scallop Advisory Committee (OSAC) serves as the primary vehicle through which the Offshore Scallop Fishing Management Plan is deliberated and developed. OSAC is one of eleven inter-regional management advisory committees sponsored by DFO. In turn, OSAC 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, such as the Long-Term Issues Working Group of 1985 to 1986, can be established to address specific concerns. Between January 1986 and April 1987, the 1986-87 Scallop Management Plans were the product of nine OSAC meetings and at least five joint meetings between the Offshore and Inshore Scallop Advisory Committees. The provisions of the 1987 Scallop Management Plan are fully consistent with OSAC advice (see Appendix II for OSAC Terms of Reference).

LICENSING POLICY

Current licensing policy for the offshore scallop fishery is subject to the conditions of the three-year trial period for enterprise allocations.

Enterprise allocations (EA's) represent a company's percentage of the total allowable catch for a specific fishing year. The following general licensing conditions apply during the enterprise allocation period.

1. No permanent transfer of a portion of a company's EA to another company. The entire EA and all relevant licences must be transferred. All transfers must be approved by DFO.
2. Should the EA Program prove not to be a viable management strategy in the offshore scallop fishery, the fishery may revert to a competitive fishery based on the 1986 level of 76 licences.
3. Should an enterprise withdraw a licensed offshore scallop vessel from the fishery during the trial EA period, such non-participation would not constitute cause for removal of that vessel's offshore scallop fishing privilege. If the EA Program is not continued beyond the trial period (1986-1988), owners would have until December 31, 1989, to show a documented commitment to build or replace vessels removed from the fishery.
4. The temporary vessel replacement policy applies to offshore vessels permanently removed or rendered unserviceable for a period of four months or more. A maximum of two year's duration is allowed. Vessels must operate on a similar fishing plan as the vessel replaced and they must deliver their catch to the same plant as the original vessel. Vessel replacements require DFO approval. During the trial EA period, short-term vessel charters are permitted, subject to DFO policy and approval.
5. During the EA period, companies must renew their vessels' licences annually. If the EA Program is not continued, each company would be permitted to use those licences held on January 1, 1986.

More detail on the EA Program and related licensing policy can be found in the document "Enterprise Allocations in the Offshore Scallop Fishery - June 1986" (as amended).

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

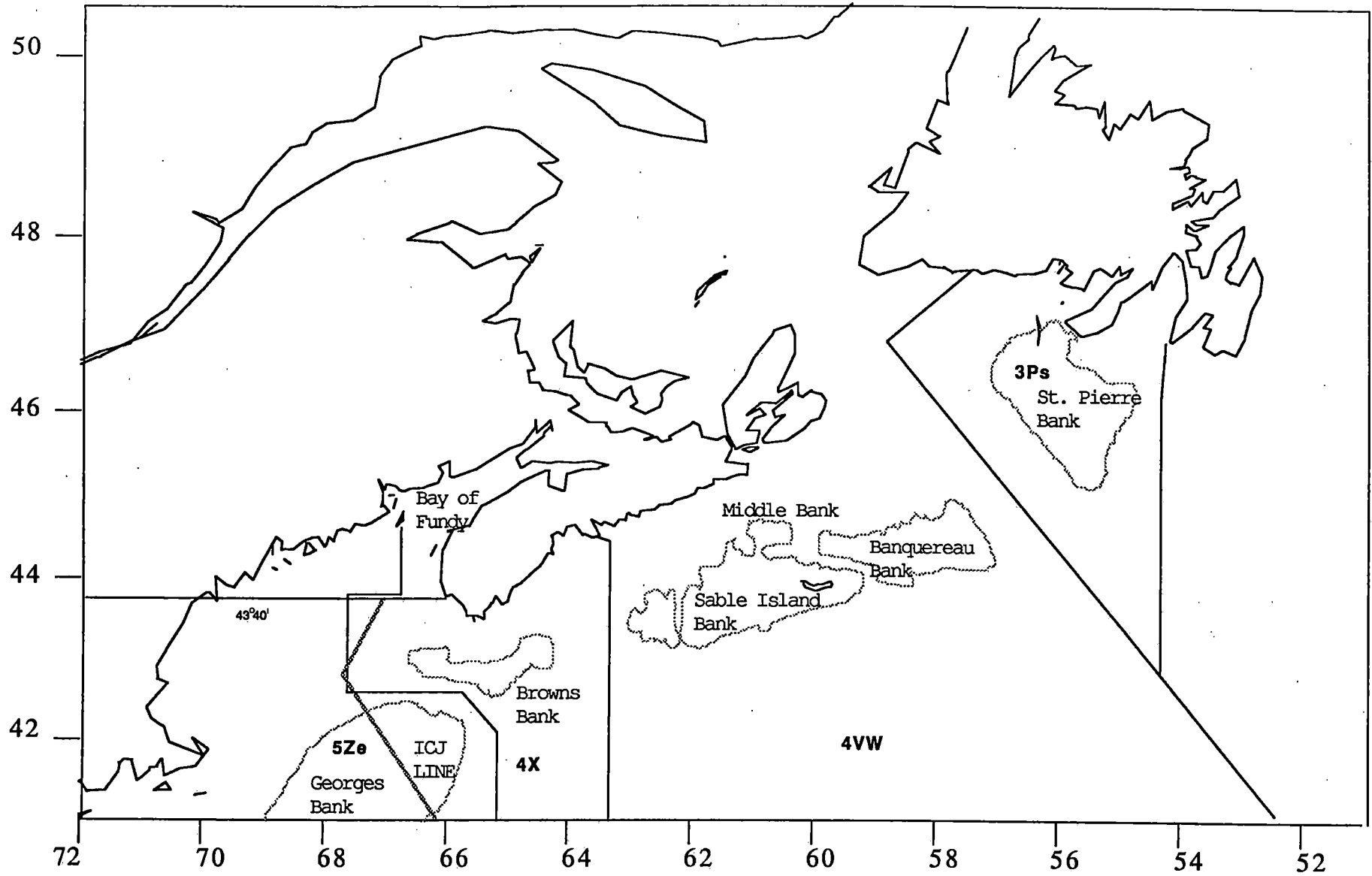
Access Fees	An access fee is defined as the annual fee paid by an enterprise for access to the offshore scallop resource. Access fees are based on the TAC enterprise allocations held in respect of a company.
Allocation	The portion of the TAC allocated to a particular individual, fleet or company for harvesting purposes.
Enterprise	An enterprise is the sum of the investment in vessels, gear, shore facilities and operating capital by an individual or company involved in the fishery.
Enterprise Allocation	The total level of allocation of scallops assigned to an individual enterprise expressed in percentage terms or as portions of the TAC.
Length Overall (LOA)	Length overall means the horizontal distance measured between the perpendiculars erected at the extreme ends of the outside of the main hull of a vessel.
Recruitment	Recruitment is defined generally as increases in the current scallop stocks which may become available for harvest, subject to existing management strategies.
TAC	Total allowable catch of a scallop for any one year; the portion of the available biomass which may be harvested.

Appendix II

OFFSHORE SCALLOP ADVISORY COMMITTEE - CURRENT MEMBERSHIP

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Address</u>
H.H. Scarth, Chairman	DFO	Halifax
Greg Roach	N.S. Department of Fisheries	Halifax
Graham Knickle	Adams & Knickle	Lunenburg
Earl Kaiser	Lawrence Sweeney Fisheries Ltd.	Yarmouth
M.R. Comeau	Comeau's Seafoods Ltd.	Saulnierville
P. Matthews	Clearwater Fine Foods Inc.	Bedford
Dr. William Murphy	Mersey Seafoods Ltd.	Liverpool
Douglas Mosher	Scotia Trawler Equipment Ltd.	Lunenburg
Sheldon Mossman	Fishery Products International	Riverport
D. Janes	C.B.R.T. & G.W.	Halifax
Boyd Lee	C.B.R.T. & G.W.	Halifax
Leo McCormick	Fishermen Food & Allied Workers Un.	Lunenburg
Paul Fogarty	Fishermen Food & Allied Workers Un.	Lunenburg
Capt. Bob Mayo	Lunenburg Master Mariners Assoc.	Lunenburg
Gary Hartman	Lunenburg Master Mariners Assoc.	Lunenburg
Roger Stirling	S.P.A.N.S.	Dartmouth
Pat Amirault	N.S. Fishermen's Association	Yarmouth
Reg Hazelton	ISAC	Barton
G.E. Jefferson	DFO	Halifax
Ginette Robert/Bob Mohn	DFO	Halifax
Greg Stevens	DFO	Halifax
J. Nelson	DFO	Halifax
P.E. Partington	DFO	Yarmouth
J. Southall	DFO	Yarmouth
K.S. Naidu	DFO	Newfoundland
G. Brocklehurst	DFO	Newfoundland
J.M. O'Brien	Office of the Auditor General	Halifax

NOTE: Various other DFO officials may attend at the request of the Chairman.



OFFSHORE SCALLOP FISHERY MAP

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News Release Communiqué

NR-HQ-87-63E

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday June 4, 1987

1987 OFFSHORE SCALLOP FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN ANNOUNCED

OTTAWA -- Fisheries and Oceans Minister Tom Siddon today announced the 1987 Offshore Atlantic Scallop Fishery Management Plan. The quota for the 1987 offshore scallop fishery in the Scotia-Fundy Region will increase by more than 50 per cent over the 1986 quota. This is the highlight of the plan establishing a total allowable catch (TAC) of 6,850 t in NAFO Divisions 4X+5, the area comprised primarily of the scallop fishing grounds of Georges and Browns Banks.

Eight per cent of this TAC (548 t) is allocated to the Bay of Fundy fleet under a 1986 inshore/offshore agreement that includes the phase-out of inshore effort on Georges Bank through 1987 and 1988.

Mr. Siddon noted that the increase reflects two important year classes of scallops entering the fishery and the self-restraint of the offshore industry under the 1986 management plan.

"The consistent advice from the Offshore Scallop Advisory Committee over the past three years and since the 1984 establishment of the Georges Bank maritime boundary has been to manage the fishery conservatively for the long-term benefit of all participants," said Mr. Siddon. "This approach has meant considerable short-term pain for the industry but the results are now becoming self-evident as the portion of the resource banked under previous plans is resulting in a significant strengthening of the stock."

.../2

**Canada**

The plan also calls for size limits of 33/500 g in 4X+5 and 3Ps (St. Pierre Bank) and 44/500 g in 4VW (the eastern Scotian Shelf). The size limits, expressed in the maximum number of meats permitted in 500 g samples of the catch, prevent the overharvesting of juvenile scallops so they can reach sizes at which they contribute to spawning. They also increases the yield and, thereby, returns to the industry from the resource.

This is the second year of a trial Enterprise Allocation or company quota system in the offshore scallop fishery. The program allocates a certain portion of the offshore quota to each offshore company. Mr. Siddon noted that the first year of the program was considered successful in that it allowed each company to fish its allocation according to its own schedule, thereby increasing the efficiency of the harvest over the previous competitive system. As well, fisheries enforcement staff noted virtually 100 per cent compliance with the provisions of the program.

The administrative and legal framework of the offshore scallop plan remains mostly unchanged from 1986.

"The offshore scallop fishery is a bright light in the overall fishery management picture on the Atlantic coast," said Mr. Siddon. "Through the development of sound management plans, the fishery should continue to provide a relatively stable source of employment and income for the participants and for the general benefit of the economy of the area."

The offshore scallop fishery is fished by about 60 vessels in the 27.4 m (90 ft.) to 41 m (135 ft.) range operating primarily out of Riverport, Lunenburg, Yarmouth and Saulnierville, Nova Scotia. Each vessel employs 15 to 16 crew members and, depending on fishing success, stays at sea for up to 12 days. Canadian landings in the

fishery, which is carried out predominantly on Georges Bank, hit a historic low figure of 1,945 t in 1984 with an approximate value of \$24,000,000. Landings rebounded to 3,811 t in 1985 (\$39,000,000), 4,900 t (estimated) in 1986 (\$47,000,000) and, subject to 1987 prices, the 6,850 t TAC in 1987 may produce landings in excess of \$70,000,000.

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

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1987 Offshore Scallop Management Plan Released

HALIFAX - Jean-Eudes Haché, Director-General of the Scotia-Fundy Region of Fisheries and Oceans today released details of the 1987 Offshore Scallop Management Plan. Mr. Haché commended the Offshore Scallop Advisory Committee for their collective efforts in its development. He stated that "this fishery is a major contributor to the economy of the region and, with careful management, future projections for its success are promising". Principal elements of the plan include:

1. An interim total allowable catch will be set at 5378 t, of which 430 t or 8 percent is allocated to the inshore Bay of Fundy fleet. The inshore share will be fished under terms of the inshore/offshore agreement made last Autumn. The offshore share, 4948 t, is to be divided into company quotas (enterprise allocations), as negotiated in the 1986 management plan.
2. After final analysis of 1986 scientific and commercial fishing data, the total allowable catch will be revised by April 30.
3. The scallop meat count remains at 33 meats per 500g for divisions 4X and 5. The meat count for division 4VW will be provisionally set at 44 meats per 500 g.
4. Scallop fishermen have been asked to abide by a voluntary closure of division 3Ps until further consultations in February. The St. Pierre Bank scallop management plan will be finalized following further consultations.

5. Fisheries and Oceans is now preparing a discussion paper on the impact of alternative management strategies. Once this is completed, members of the Offshore Scallop Advisory Committee will be asked to review the material and advise the Department on long-term fishing strategies for the future.
6. Administrative and enforcement elements of the 1986 plan will apply in 1987. This includes the mechanism employed for reporting catches.

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