

*Gulf Region*

Notice to Fish Harvesters

2025-2026 – Conservation Harvesting Plan for the southern Gulf of St. Lawrence mackerel bait fishery

Moncton (NB) – August 21, 2025 – Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) announces the Conservation Harvesting Plan (CHP) for the second allocation of the 2025-2026 mackerel bait fishery in the southern Gulf of St. Lawrence in Mackerel Fishing Area 16. The reopening date for the bait fishery (**mackerel only**) is September 8, 2025 at 4h00 ADT.

Eligible fish harvesters who wish to participate in this fishery must refer to Conditions of Licence that will be available on the [National Online Licensing System](#).

NEW IN 2025-2026

The voluntary use of an electronic logbook (ELOG) is allowed in 2025-2026. Additional information can be found on the following website: [Electronic logbooks \(ELOGS\)](#)

OTHER MANAGEMENT MEASURES

Second allocation

The second allocation is set at 220 t within the Atlantic Canada and Quebec Regions.

Authorized species

Conditions of licence are **only valid for mackerel**.

Mandatory hail out

Mandatory hail out is required for all licence holders going out on a fishing trip.

Mandatory hail in

Mandatory hail in is required for all licence holders entering port after a fishing trip. An accurate catch estimate must be provided before entering port.

Mandatory logbook

Gulf Region harvesters must obtain either a paper logbook or an electronic logbook from a prequalified supplier listed on the following websites:

- **Herring and Mackerel logbook - Fixed gear** (paper format) :
[Prequalified Logbook Suppliers](#).
- **Electronic logbook (Elog)** :
[Qualified electronic logbooks \(ELOG\) client applications](#).

Maximum daily limit

The maximum daily quantity of mackerel authorized to catch and retain is 454 kg in total.

Gear authorized

A maximum of 3 gillnets for a maximum total length of 50 fathoms with a minimum mesh size of 66.7 mm or; a maximum of 36 hooks and a maximum of 6 lines.

Fishing restrictions

It is strictly forbidden to sell any species of fish caught under the authority of a bait licence.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Harvesters must refer to the conditions of licence for reporting requirements for items such as:

- Species at Risk
- Marine mammal interaction
- Lost gear reporting
- Retrieved gear reporting

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Ben Moore
Fisheries Management
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Charlottetown, PE
(902) 315-0284

Rachel Friolet
Fisheries Management
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Tracadie, NB
(506) 395-7705

Alan Dwyer
Fisheries Management
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Antigonish, NS
(902) 735-7114

David Giard
Fisheries Management
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Moncton, NB
(506) 866-9053