



Gulf Region

Notice to Fish Harvesters

2023 PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND – ATLANTIC HALIBUT FISHERY

Charlottetown, PEI – July 10, 2023 - Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) is announcing the fisheries management measures for the Prince Edward Island (PEI) groundfish fixed-gear licence holders, with vessels less than 13.1716 metres (45 feet) in overall length that have registered to fish Atlantic Halibut in 2023.

Individual Allocation: The Atlantic Halibut allocation for the PEI fixed gear fleet in 2023 will be 86.651 metric tonnes. Based on the number of registered participants, an individual catch limit of **398 kg round weight** will be implemented. To convert dressed (head on, gutted) weight to round weight, multiply dressed weight by 1.14.

Season: In 2023, the PEI Atlantic halibut fishery will be four openings of four days, from Tuesday to Friday for each opening **or until the quota is caught**. The openings will occur on July 11 to 14, July 25 to 28, September 12 to 15 and September 26 to September 29. **During open periods, the fishery will occur from 4 a.m. until 4 p.m. on the last day of each opening. Licence holders are not permitted to leave port until 2 a.m. on the day of an opening and must return to port by 6 p.m. the last day of the opening.**

The Atlantic Halibut fishery will close when the quota nears zero metric tonne or the quota is captured. If more than 10% of the quota remains after the fourth opening, a list of eligible licence holders will be created and the quota redistributed based on the individual catch limit.

Discarding Waste

As of 2022, all commercial fisheries in Canada have a new condition of licence relating to the discharge of garbage from Canadian fishing vessels. The licence holder/operator is prohibited from discarding in Canadian fisheries waters from their vessel any time that may be harmful to fish or fish habitat.

New condition: *The licence holder/operator is prohibited from discarding in Canadian fisheries waters from their vessel any item that may be harmful to fish or fish habitat including but not limited to plastics, ropes, fishing gear, garbage bags, fuel, oil, rags, glass, bottles, metal, extruded polystyrene foam (e.g. Styrofoam), and tires.*

Refer to the Notice to Fish Harvesters sent on April 7, 2022 for further details: <https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fisheries-peches/sdc-cps/index-eng.html>

NEW management measures in place for the 2023 fishing season:

Harvesters are requested to document every encounter with specific discarded species, as listed in the licence conditions, by recording them in the comment section of the Fixed Gear (Groundfish) logbook. The species' to be recorded include: Winter flounder (blackback) less than 25 cm in length, Atlantic halibut less than 85 cm in length, Skate, Dogfish and Lumpfish.

Following a request from the Prince Edward Island Fishermen's Association (PEIFA) the department has authorized halibut fishing in areas 4T5 and 4T7 for the 2023 season.

For more information:

Ben Moore
A/Area Chief, Resource Management
Gulf Region
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Charlottetown, PEI
(902) 315-0284
Benjamin.Moore@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Daniel Lapierre
Senior Regional Advisor
Gulf Region
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Moncton, N.B.
(506) 962-7286
Daniel.Lapierre@dfo-mpo.gc.ca