

# *Notice to Fish Harvesters*

---

September 25, 2019

EKME: 4095902

## **2019 Prince Edward Island Atlantic Halibut Reallocation Fishery**

**Charlottetown, PE** – The Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), Gulf Region, today announces that there will be an additional reallocation fishing period to fish for Atlantic Halibut. Fishing will be authorized for individuals who were selected by a draw and meet the eligibility criteria. This reallocation is for the Prince Edward Island (PEI) groundfish fixed gear fleet, with vessels less than 13.716 metres (45 feet) in overall length that have registered to fish Atlantic Halibut in 2019.

**INDIVIDUAL ALLOCATION:** The Atlantic halibut allocation remaining for the PEI fixed gear fleet in 2019, is 14.319 metric tons. Based on the number of reallocation participants, an individual catch limit of **250 kg round weight** will be implemented. To convert dressed (head on, gutted) weight to round weight, multiply dressed weight by 1.14.

**SEASON:** The reallocation fishery will take place from **4 a.m. on September 30<sup>th</sup> until 4 p.m. on October 04<sup>th</sup>**. Licences 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 day the fishery closes.**

**When fishing for Atlantic Halibut anywhere in the Gulf of St. Lawrence where a notice of a temporary closure was given due to the presence of North Atlantic Right Whales (NARW), the licence holder shall closely attend their fishing gear at all times and must remove all fishing gear from the water prior to entering port. The licence holder shall also remove all fishing gear from the water as soon as a NARW is observed in the vicinity of the fishing activity when it is safe to do so.**

If more than 10% of the quota remains after the reallocation opening, a list of eligible licence holders will be created and the quota redistributed based on the initial individual catch limit.

Management measures similar to 2018 include:

- The maximum number of hooks permitted to be fished or on board a vessel at any time is 300.
- Maximum individual by-catch limit of 50kg of cod. All fishing activities must cease once this bycatch limit is reached.**
- 100% Docksides Monitoring

**Requirement to report lost and retrieved gear:**

- As in 2018, the requirement to report lost gear to DFO remains in place.
- **NEW requirement** – Starting in 2019, licence holders must report the retrieval of any of their own gear previously reported lost to DFO.
- The *Lost fishing gear form* and the *Retrieval of previously reported fishing gear form* are included in licence conditions and are now available online at: <http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fisheries-peches/commercial-commerciale/reporting-declaration-eng.html>.
- The appropriate forms must be completed and submitted within **24 hours** of entering to port (**new timeframe**).

**Requirement to report interactions with marine mammals:**

- The Marine Mammal Interaction Form will remain included with the licence conditions and must be completed and submitted by email to: [DFO.NAT.InteractionsMM-InteractionsMM.NAT.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:DFO.NAT.InteractionsMM-InteractionsMM.NAT.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca) unless it is filled out online at: <http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/species-especes/mammals-mammiferes/report-rapport/fish-harvester-pecheur-eng.asp>. The form must be submitted within 48 hours of the end of a fishing trip.

Please refer to the separate notice attached issued on April 12, 2019 for additional information on Management measures to protect North Atlantic Right Whales. A map illustrating the Lobster Fishing Areas and the dynamic management areas subject to temporary closures (dynamic zone) is provided in Annex 1 for information purposes only.

.../2

**For more information contact:**

Ben Moore  
A/Area Chief, Resource Management  
Gulf Region  
Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
Charlottetown, PEI  
(902) 370-7094

Daniel Lapierre  
A/Regional Senior FAM Officer  
Gulf Region  
Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
Moncton, N.B.  
506-851-3846

**Map showing the foraging areas and the static closure**

