



Notice to Fish Harvesters

April 17, 2015

2015 - SOUTHERN GULF OF ST. LAWRENCE SNOW CRAB CONSERVATION HARVESTING PLAN CRAB FISHING AREA 12 (12, 18, 25, 26)

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) has released the details of the 2015 Crab Fishing Area (CFA) 12 (12, 18, 25, 26) Conservation Harvesting Plan. The Total Allowable Catch (TAC) in CFA 12 is 22,844.24 t. Refer to the attached table for the TAC distribution.

Quota reconciliation

As in 2014, there will be quota reconciliation in this fishery. Quota overruns during the 2015 season by a licence holder will be deducted in 2016 on a one-for-one basis. It is the responsibility of the licence holder to respect the allocation granted while taking into consideration transfers and landings and to make the necessary arrangements before departing for a fishing expedition to have quota to cover expected catches for the expedition.

At-sea observer coverage

At-sea observer coverage representing 20% of fishing trips will be required for 2015.

Temporary Flexibilities Options

Temporary quota transfers (up to 100%), the creation of partnerships and trios, as well as the waiver of the 30-day minimum policy for transfer of vessels, will be permitted for the 2015 fishing season. More details on temporary quota transfers are available in the Notice to Fish Harvesters published on April 10, 2015.

2015 Management Measures

The management measures from 2014 are rolled over in 2015, which include, amongst others:

- The soft-shell crab protocol.
- Only one valid tag per trap. Tags from previous years must be removed. The color for original tags must be yellow, while the color for replacement tags must be pale blue.
- 100% dockside monitoring.
- Landings weighed in kilograms on an electronic scale with a memory.

.../2

- The use of a vessel monitoring system (VMS). Harvesters are asked to register their VMS with DFO as soon as possible.
- Maximum mesh size of 75 mm.
- Authorized release of commercial-sized male crab with small claws back in the water.
- A delayed season opening to June 1 applies to an area in CFA 12 for one nautical mile bordering on CFA 19. The buffer zone between CFAs 18 and 19 remains in effect.
- The Irving Whale Exclusion Zone is maintained.
- For proper management and control purposes, the targeted total number of vessels for all fleets on the water at any time is 150 for the Gulf Region and 75 for the Quebec Region.
- For proper management and control purposes, traps will be issued on the same basis as in the past:
 - 150 for midshore vessels;
 - 75 for the traditional inshore Prince Edward Island fleet;
 - 75 for CFA 18;
 - New access and First Nations: those receiving quotas of up to 50 t will be entitled to 75 traps, while fish harvesters receiving over 50 t will be able to use 150 traps;
 - Additional traps may be permitted in accordance with the individual quota transfer program administrative guidelines or regional temporary flexibility options in effect.
- The industry-led Committee of the opening date of the fishery is assessing conditions and will recommend a targeted opening date. Opening the fishery on this target date will be subject to weather conditions and to DFO operational requirements. The opening date will be confirmed in a separate Notice to Fish Harvesters and by the issuance of a variation order.
- The fishery will close on July 15, 2015. All gear must be removed from the water by the end of the day July 14. Extensions to the fishing season will not be considered.

FOR INFORMATION:

Sylvie Léger
Resource Management
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Moncton, NB
506-851-2278

Bernard Morin
Resource Management
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Quebec, QC
418-570-0061

.../3

**2015 - DISTRIBUTION OF TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCH FOR
CRAB FISHING AREA 12 (12, 18, 25, 26)**

Distribution of the TAC	Percentage of TAC	2015 TAC (metric tons)
First Nations (Sub-Total)	15.816 %	3,613.045
• New Brunswick	8.700 %	1,987.507
• Quebec	6.239 %	1,425.187
• Prince Edward Island	0.877 %	200.351
Traditional Fleets (Sub-Total)	69.184 %	15,804.571
• Midshore, New Brunswick	39.408 %	9,002.517
• Midshore, Quebec	21.169 %	4,835.814
• Midshore, Nova Scotia	1.169 %	267.088
• Inshore, Nova Scotia	4.002 %	914.226
• Inshore, Prince Edward Island	3.436 %	784.926
New Access Fleets (Sub-Total)	15 %	3,426.857
• New Brunswick (Sub-Total)	7.129 %	1,628.559
○ MFU	6.161 %	1,407.542
○ ITQ groundfish specialists	0.713 %	162.853
○ Competitive groundfish specialists	0.255 %	58.164
• Quebec (Sub-Total)	4.837 %	1,104.976
○ Fixed gear and scallop fleets Gaspé Peninsula	2.1660%	494.806
○ Fixed gear and scallop fleet Magdalen Islands	0.9495%	216.906
○ Mobile gear fleet Gaspé Peninsula	0.1127%	25.745
○ Mobile gear fleet Magdalen Islands	0.4508%	102.982
○ Lobster harvesters Gaspé Peninsula : Regroupement des pêcheurs professionnels du sud de la Gaspésie (RPPSG)	0.8857%	202.331
○ Lobster harvesters Magdalen Islands : Association des pêcheurs propriétaires des Iles- de-la-Madeleine (APPIM)	0.2723%	62.205
• Nova Scotia*(Sub-Total)	0.913 %	208.568
• Prince Edward Island (Sub-Total)	2.122 %	484.755
○ PEIFA	1.867 %	426.584
○ PEI Groundfishermen's Association	0.255 %	58.171
Total (All)	100%	22,844.473

*Distribution of quota will be provided by the Gulf-Nova Scotia Area Office