

Notice to Fish Harvesters

EKME # 3803014

2017 Prince Edward Island Atlantic Halibut Fishery

Charlottetown, PE. – July 13, 2017 - Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) today announces that fishing will be authorized for Prince Edward Island (PEI) groundfish fixed gear fleet, with vessels less than 13.1716 metres (45 feet) in overall length that have registered to fish Atlantic halibut in 2017.

INDIVIDUAL ALLOCATION: The Atlantic halibut allocation for the PEI fixed gear fleet in 2017 will be 51.982 metric tonnes. Based on the number of registered participants, an individual catch limit of **182 kg** will be implemented.

SEASON: In 2017, the Prince Edward Island Atlantic halibut fishery will take place every Wednesday and Thursday starting July 19, ending on August 31. There will be no fishing on August 9 and 10. As in previous years there are daily close times of 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. There will be no consideration of delaying the fishery due to inclement weather or other uncontrollable circumstances.

If more than 10% of the quota remains after August 31st, a list of eligible fishers will be created and the quota redistributed based on the initial individual catch limit. The reallocation fishery will be held on Tuesday to Thursdays each week starting September 12. A new group of fishers will participate each week until 90% of the quota is caught.

All other management measures are similar to 2016 including:

- 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 for each fishing period
- 100% Dockside Monitoring

The conditions of licence are now available. The Department wishes to remind licence holders that to be able to obtain their conditions, they need to attach an eligible vessel to their groundfish licence.

For more information contact:

Chris Mills
A/Area Chief, Resource Management
Gulf Region
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Charlottetown, P.E.I.
902-566-7807

Cecile Lavoie
A/Regional Senior FAM Officer
Gulf Region
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Moncton, N.B.
506-851-7358