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# *Notice to Fish Harvesters*

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## **Season opening and new management measures for the mackerel fishery in Mackerel Fishing Area 16 (Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence)**

**Moncton, NB – May 11, 2017** –The Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) announced today the mackerel fishery in Mackerel Fishing Area 16 will open on May 15, 2017, with new management measures being implemented for this year for the Gulf fleets.

The new management measures being put in place are to improve monitoring and reporting of catches in the mackerel fishery. These measures include mandatory hail-in by reporting estimated weight of catch for every fishing trip and 25 % dockside monitoring coverage for landings. Eligible harvesters wishing to participate in this fishery are now able to obtain their mackerel licence through the National Online Licensing System. Harvesters will also be required to have entered into an agreement with a dockside monitoring company designated by DFO prior to the start of their mackerel fishing season.

Discussions on the development of a rebuilding plan for mackerel will continue over the next year in collaboration with various stakeholders to identify options to improve the state of the stock.

The Total Allowable Catch will be announced at a later date.

### **For more information, please contact:**

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