

## **General Guidelines - Quota Reconciliation Snow Crab Areas 12, 12E, 12F and 19**

### **Preamble**

The reconciliation of quota overruns is applied to commercial quota fisheries administered by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO). This administrative approach was introduced is applicable to all fleets in Areas 12 (12, 18, 25, 26), 12E, 12F and 19 snow crab fishery.

Quota reconciliation provides that any overharvest of a quota in one year will be accounted for in advance of the following fishing season. The accounting will result in a quantity of fish equal to the quantity of the overrun being taken off the allocation (i.e., not allocated) of the respective licence holder before the next fishing season starts.

Quota reconciliation is not a penalty or sanction for over-fishing. Rather, it is simply an accounting of overruns from one year to the next to ensure conservation of the resource and ensure that removals respect established quotas over time. The quota reconciliation process and results will be managed under a consistent and transparent process subject to the requirements of the *Access to Information Act* and the *Privacy Act*.

### **Objectives**

Quota reconciliation will facilitate the management of the Snow Crab Fishery in areas 12 (12, 18, 25, 26), 12E, 12F and 19 and encourage harvest limits to be respected. Quota reconciliation will help to achieve conservation objectives for the resource, ensure that over-runs by a licence holder do not affect another, and provide industry with an increased responsibility in meeting conservation objectives.

### **Principles**

- Licence holders shall have enough quota to cover for expected catches before beginning a fishing trip.
- DFO minimizes the need for reconciliation by ensuring quota transfer mechanisms are in place, when possible, to allow licence holders to cover overruns during or at the end of a fishing season.
- Quota reconciliation respects Aboriginal and international agreements.
- Licence holders have the right to have quota reconciliation decision reviewed.

## **GUIDELINES**

- 1. The reconciliation of quota overruns will be applied to the Areas 12(12, 18, 25, 26), 12E, 12F and 19 snow crab fishery.*
- 2. Quota reconciliation will be applied at the licence holder level.*
- 3. Quota overruns will be reconciled on a one-for-one basis and will be calculated for all quota overruns of 10 Kg or more.*
- 4. Licence holders are responsible for accounting and keeping track of their catches and quota transfers. At the end of October, DFO will communicate with each of the licence holders whose landings exceed their initial allocations granted taking into consideration the net balance of quota transfers. The Department will inform these licence holders of a specific deadline to regularize their situation and advise DFO of such.*
- 5. After the specific deadline, the licence holder will then have two weeks to provide the Department documentation justifying any adjustment, where necessary. However, it should be noted that no quota transfer will be accepted the specific deadline.*
- 6. If a licence is reissued, reconciliation will be applied to the reissued licence. The one receiving the licence is responsible for confirming quotas and landings with the original licence holder.*
- 7. Licence fees will be based on the initial quotas provided to the licence holder, notwithstanding any subsequent quota reconciliation.*

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

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