



Canadian Atlantic Herring - Spring spawner component *Consultation workbook – February 2020*

Developing a rebuilding plan for the southern Gulf of St. Lawrence herring spring spawner component (NAFO Division 4T).

The purpose of this document is to engage with First Nations and harvesters of herring in area 16 (NAFO Division 4T) on ways and strategies to rebuild the herring spring spawner component in the southern Gulf of Saint-Lawrence, in accordance with the Precautionary Approach Framework and the renewed Fisheries Act. This workbook is designed to facilitate and guide the discussion on key management measures that could be used in developing a rebuilding plan for herring spring spawners. These management measures could be used individually or combined, depending on their objective, efficiency and feasibility.

We look forward to hearing your thoughts on the topics presented. Participants are therefore invited to become aware of the information provided and to provide by writing their comments / suggestions. If there is disagreement with the management measure presented, it is important to the participant to identify why there is disagreement, and what alternative action could be adopted.

1 - Objectives of the consultation:

- Describe the process and elements of a rebuilding plan that flow from DFO's legal obligations.
- Propose management measures that would comply with a rebuilding plan.
- Evaluate the management measures individually by identifying potential obstacles or challenges to their implementation.
- Gather comments, suggestions and feedback from First Nations and harvesters.

2 - Legal context:

On June 21, 2019 the new *Fisheries Act* received royal assent and became law. The new provisions and stronger protections will better support the sustainability of Canada's marine resources for future generations. The renewed *Fisheries Act* includes new Fish Stock provisions and requirements to:

- Maintain major fish stocks at levels necessary to promote sustainability (section 6.1);
- Develop and implement rebuilding plans for stocks that have declined to their critical zone (section 6.2); and
- Prescribe the list of major stocks to which sections 6.1 and 6.2 apply (section 6.3).

For more information on the new *Fisheries Act*: <https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/campaign-campagne/fisheries-act-loi-sur-les-peches/introduction-eng.html>

3 - A rebuilding plan triggered under 6.2(1) should contain:

- A description of the stock status, stock trends, and reasons for the stock's decline.
- Measurable objectives aimed at rebuilding the stock with associated timelines.
 - The objectives should identify the desired rebuilt state or target, for example, a stock status that is above the Limit Reference Point (LRP) with a reasonable probability. The objectives should take into account the socio-economic impacts and benefits of rebuilding.
- Management measures aimed at achieving the objectives.
- A method to track progress to achieve the rebuilding plan's objectives.
- An approach to review the objectives and adjust them if the objectives are not being achieved.

For more information on the rebuilding plan process: <https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/reports-rapports/regs/sff-cpd/precautionary-precaution-eng.htm>



4 - Participants need to evaluate and provide comments on:

- the effectiveness of the management measure to achieve the rebuilding objectives;
- the feasibility of implementing each management measure;
- the overall impact of the management measure on the industry;
- an overall qualitative assessment (0 to 3 scale) of the management measure in terms of its effectiveness to rebuild the stock and in terms of its implementing feasibility.

The workbook was developed to facilitate discussion but above all to facilitate the gathering of written comments from participants. DFO is therefore seeking to receive written evaluations and comments. Participants are also invited to propose adjustments or alternatives to the management measures presented. Other management measures can also be suggested using the template provided at the last page of the workbook.

5 - List of management measures to be evaluated:

1. Closure of bait fishing during the spring fishing season.
2. Closure of the spring commercial fishing season.
3. Increase mesh size of gillnets during the fall fishing season to allow more spring spawners to escape the fishery.
4. Adjust fishing duration/date and authorized fishing locations of the mobile fleet (seiners) to minimize capture of spring spawners during fall fishing activities.
5. Revise the allocation sharing formula in each sub-area to better distribute fishing effort and thus better protect the productivity of each spawning ground.
6. Limit access and/or reduce the number of license holders.



Management measure:

1 - Closure of fishing for bait during the spring fishing season.

Strategy / Objective:

To obtain a statistically significant increase in Spawning Stock Biomass (SSB) within a 3 to 6 years period.

1) Would this management measure theoretically be an effective approach to achieving the rebuilding goal? If no, please explain why it would not be and the justifications.

2) Is the implementation of this management measure realistic for the next 3 to 6 years? If so, what would the proposed timeline be? If no, what are the other options proposed to achieve the same goal?

3) What impact would this management measure have on the industry? Which sectors of the industry or fishing groups would be affected the most?

4) On a scale of 0 to 3, please assess the effectiveness of this management measure to promote/achieve rebuilding. *Can it provide a positive measurable impact on the stock?*

No rebuilding, no impact	Some rebuilding impact, but not measurable	Small measurable rebuilding impact	Large measurable rebuilding impact
0	1	2	3

5) On a scale of 0 to 3, please assess the feasibility of this management measure. *Can it be implemented without major impacts on the fishery industry?*

Impossible to implement (catastrophic impacts)	Conceivable but with major impacts	Conceivable, with minor impacts	Entirely possible to implement (without significant impacts)
0	1	2	3



Management measure:
2 - Closure of the commercial spring fishing season.

Strategy / Objective:
 To obtain a statistically significant increase in Spawning Stock Biomass (SSB) within a 3 to 6 years period.

1) Would this management measure theoretically be an effective approach to achieving the rebuilding goal? If no, please explain why it would not be and the justifications.

2) Is the implementation of this management measure realistic for the next 3 to 6 years? If so, what would the proposed timeline be? If no, what are the other options proposed to achieve the same goal?

3) What impact would this management measure have on the industry? Which sectors of the industry or fishing groups would be affected the most?

4) On a scale of 0 to 3, please assess the effectiveness of this management measure to promote/achieve rebuilding. *Can it provide a positive measurable impact on the stock?*

No rebuilding, no impact	Some rebuilding impact, but not measurable	Small measurable rebuilding impact	Large measurable rebuilding impact
0	1	2	3

5) On a scale of 0 to 3, please assess the feasibility of this management measure. *Can it be implemented without major impacts on the fishery industry?*

Impossible to implement (catastrophic impacts)	Conceivable but with major impacts	Conceivable, with minor impacts	Entirely possible to implement (without significant impacts)
0	1	2	3



Management measure:

3 - Increase mesh size of gillnets during the fall fishing season to reduce the catch of spring spawners.

Strategy / Objective:

Reduce spring spawning catches during the fall fishing season – *focused at the fall season fixed gear fleet.*

1) Would this management measure theoretically be an effective approach to achieving the rebuilding goal? If no, please explain why it would not be and the justifications.

2) Is the implementation of this management measure realistic for the next 3 to 6 years? If so, what would the proposed timeline be? If no, what are the other options proposed to achieve the same goal?

3) What impact would this management measure have on the industry? Which sectors of the industry or fishing groups would be affected the most?

4) On a scale of 0 to 3, please assess the effectiveness of this management measure to promote/achieve rebuilding. *Can it provide a positive measurable impact on the stock?*

No rebuilding, no impact	Some rebuilding impact, but not measurable	Small measurable rebuilding impact	Large measurable rebuilding impact
0	1	2	3

5) On a scale of 0 to 3, please assess the feasibility of this management measure. *Can it be implemented without major impacts on the fishery industry?*

Impossible to implement (catastrophic impacts)	Conceivable but with major impacts	Conceivable, with minor impacts	Entirely possible to implement (without significant impacts)
0	1	2	3



Management measure:

4 - Adjust mobile fleet fishing duration/date and authorized fishing locations to minimize capture of spring spawners.

Strategy / Objective:
Reduce the catch of spring spawners – focused at the mobile gear fleet.

1) Would this management measure theoretically be an effective approach to achieving the rebuilding goal? If no, please explain why it would not be and the justifications.

2) Is the implementation of this management measure realistic for the next 3 to 6 years? If so, what would the proposed timeline be? If no, what are the other options proposed to achieve the same goal?

3) What impact would this management measure have on the industry? Which sectors of the industry or fishing groups would be affected the most?

4) On a scale of 0 to 3, please assess the effectiveness of this management measure to promote/achieve rebuilding. *Can it provide a positive measurable impact on the stock?*

No rebuilding, no impact	Some rebuilding impact, but not measurable	Small measurable rebuilding impact	Large measurable rebuilding impact
0	1	2	3

5) On a scale of 0 to 3, please assess the feasibility of this management measure. *Can it be implemented without major impacts on the fishery industry?*

Impossible to implement (catastrophic impacts)	Conceivable but with major impacts	Conceivable, with minor impacts	Entirely possible to implement (without significant impacts)
0	1	2	3



Management measure:

5 - Revise the sharing formula in each sub-area to better distribute fishing effort and thus better protect the productivity of each spawning ground.

Strategy / Objective:
Maintain the spatial diversity and productivity of the spawning grounds.

1) Would this management measure theoretically be an effective approach to achieving the rebuilding goal? If no, please explain why it would not be and the justifications.

2) Is the implementation of this management measure realistic for the next 6+ years? If so, what would the proposed timeline be? If no, what are the other options proposed to achieve the same goal?

3) What impact would this management measure have on the industry? Which sectors of the industry or fishing groups would be affected the most?

4) On a scale of 0 to 3, please assess the effectiveness of this management measure to promote/achieve rebuilding. *Can it provide a positive measurable impact on the stock?*

No rebuilding, no impact	Some rebuilding impact, but not measurable	Small measurable rebuilding impact	Large measurable rebuilding impact
0	1	2	3

5) On a scale of 0 to 3, please assess the feasibility of this management measure. *Can it be implemented without major impacts on the fishery industry?*

Impossible to implement (catastrophic impacts)	Conceivable but with major impacts	Conceivable, with minor impacts	Entirely possible to implement (without significant impacts)
0	1	2	3



Management measure:

6 - Limit access or reduce the number of license holders.

Strategy / Objective:

To promote a socially and economically sustainable fishery.

1) Would this management measure theoretically be an effective approach to achieving the rebuilding goal? If no, please explain why it would not be and the justifications.

2) Is the implementation of this management measure realistic for the next 6+ years? If so, what would the proposed timeline be? If no, what are the other options proposed to achieve the same goal?

3) What impact would this management measure have on the industry? Which sectors of the industry or fishing groups would be affected the most?

4) On a scale of 0 to 3, please assess the effectiveness of this management measure to promote/achieve rebuilding. *Can it provide a positive measurable impact on the stock?*

No rebuilding, no impact	Some rebuilding impact, but not measurable	Small measurable rebuilding impact	Large measurable rebuilding impact
0	1	2	3

5) On a scale of 0 to 3, please assess the feasibility of this management measure. *Can it be implemented without major impacts on the fishery industry?*

Impossible to implement (catastrophic impacts)	Conceivable but with major impacts	Conceivable, with minor impacts	Entirely possible to implement (without significant impacts)
0	1	2	3



7 - Any other management actions that you may suggest to achieve the rebuilding goal?

Management measure (specify):

Strategy / Objective (specify):

1) Would this management measure theoretically be an effective approach to achieving the rebuilding goal? If no, please explain why it would not be and the justifications.

2) Is the implementation of this management measure realistic for the next 3 to 6 years? If so, what would the proposed timeline be? If no, what are the other options proposed to achieve the same goal?

3) What impact would this management measure have on the industry? Which sectors of the industry or fishing groups would be affected the most?

4) On a scale of 0 to 3, please assess the effectiveness of this management measure to promote/achieve rebuilding. *Can it provide a positive measurable impact on the stock?*

No rebuilding, no impact	Some rebuilding impact, but not measurable	Small measurable rebuilding impact	Large measurable rebuilding impact
0	1	2	3

5) On a scale of 0 to 3, please assess the feasibility of this management measure. *Can it be implemented without major impacts on the fishery industry?*

Impossible to implement (catastrophic impacts)	Conceivable but with major impacts	Conceivable, with minor impacts	Entirely possible to implement (without significant impacts)
0	1	2	3