

## **Newfoundland and Labrador Groundfish Industry Development Council Stewardship Cod CHP Proposal - Divisions 3KL (Submitted by e-mail June 14, 2021)**

### **Season**

FFAW/Harvesters: July 18 - October 30, 2021 (15 weeks)

Processors: August 8 - October 30, 2021 (12 weeks)

The NLGIDC were not able to come to a consensus on a season opening date. Fish harvesters were adamant that they should be able to fish when cod appears in their area. The processors were concerned about cod quality during the capelin season as well as the inability of some plants to process capelin and cod at the same time.

- Summer season ends September 11, 2021 or when 9749.5 t is taken.
- Autumn Season September 12-October 30, 2021 or when 12,999 t is taken.
- If the allowable harvest is not taken by October 30, 2021, the season ending date should be extended until November 27, 2021 or until the allowable catch is harvested.

Summer allowable catch: 9,749.25 (75%)

Autumn allowable catch: 3,249.75 (25%)

### **Weekly limits**

Weekly limits summer: 3,200 lbs

Weekly limits autumn: 4,000 lbs

*Rationale for higher weekly limits, earlier potential season opening and earlier autumn season*

1. *There has been a trend of lower activity over the past few years.*
2. *There has been a shortfall of catch against allowable harvest level in 2019 and 2020.*
3. *High prices for crab and lobster compared to cod may impact cod fishing activity.*

Fall fishery only option in Divisions 3KL will apply as per 2020 with adjustments as outlined below.

- Harvesters can opt to fish the entire season with the weekly limits outlined above, or they may opt to fish only during autumn (Sept 12 – Oct 30)
- Harvesters who choose the autumn-only option will not be able to fish prior to September 12, 2021 and may choose one of these options.
  - Option 1: Fish only during autumn from September 12 to October 30, 2021 with a base weekly limit of 8,000 lbs/week.
  - Option 2: Fish only during autumn from September 12 to October 30, 2021 with a base bi-weekly limit of 16,000 lbs/bi-weekly which must be harvested outside Canada's Territorial Sea (the 12 mile limit) as per Section 4(a) of the Oceans Act. For harvesters selecting option 2, a DFO approved Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) is required and must be operational at all times.

## **Fishing Gear Limits:**

### **NAFO Division 3KL**

- Up to and including August 28, the maximum authorized number of nets onboard the vessel or in the water at any one time is 6.
  - Commencing August 29, 2021, the maximum authorized number of nets onboard the vessel or in the water at any one time is as follows:
    - Authorized catch limit up to and including 4,000 lbs = 9 nets
    - Authorized catch limit greater than 4,000 lbs up to and including 8,000 lbs = 12 nets
    - Authorized catch limit greater than 8,000 lbs up to and including 16,000 lbs = 15 nets
    - Authorized catch limit greater than 16,000 lbs up to and including 24,000lbs = 24 nets.
    - Authorized catch limits greater than 24,000 lbs = 34 nets
- f. Longline
- Harvesters are authorized to have a maximum of 12,000 hooks onboard the vessel or in the water at any one time.

### **Gillnet fishing on crab ground in autumn (submitted by telephone after June 14, 2021)**

Fish harvesters have expressed concern about potential damage to crab resources with cod fishing by gillnets in autumn. This issue has been raised in many areas along the NE Coast in 3K and 3L.

The NLGIDC proposes that DFO Conservation and Protection officials use some of its enforcement resources in 2021 to monitor this potential activity. If crab quotas are fully harvested there should not be additional crab mortality after the crab season closes by gillnet bycatch.