



Policy engagements in support of Owner Operator

Vessel Sharing Arrangements



Link to online engagement site and to complete questionnaire



Purpose

The purpose of this session is to :

- Provide **background** and **context** for how **Vessel Sharing Arrangements** support Owner Operator.
- To **seek your views and feedback** on how to better support inshore Owner Operators, through **Vessel sharing arrangements**.



Supporting Owner Operator

- **While Owner Operator is necessary to** keep licences and their associated benefits in the hands of independent, owner operators, the Department has approved a suite of sharing arrangements for harvesters.
- Given that vessels are **a major capital investment or expense** for most enterprises, licence holders may choose not to own a fishing vessel, rather renting or leasing their vessel.
- In some other instances, **two licence holders may decide to partner up to share a vessel.**
- Regardless of the form they take, **all agreements and arrangements related to vessels**, which may be requested and reviewed by DFO, **must comply with Owner Operator** and cannot be used to undermine a licence holder's independence.



What are vessel sharing arrangements?

Vessel sharing arrangements are **instances where two licence holders decide to partner up to share a vessel.**

Vessel sharing arrangements can provide harvesters:

- **Increased flexibility** when fishing their licence portfolio;
- **Reduced capital costs** associated with owning their own vessel; and
- **Options to address labour shortages** and difficulty securing crew members.



Vessel Sharing Arrangements

Each region has implemented their own version of vessel sharing arrangements.

The Owner Operator policy accommodations that is provided to stakeholders in Newfoundland and Labrador, is:

- **Buddy Up**

Newfoundland and Labrador Policies

Buddy Up

- This is a **temporary arrangement** authorized by DFO **allowing a maximum of (2) two licence** holders holding valid fishing licences for the **same species**, the **same fishing area** and the **same gear type** to operate from the **same vessel**.
- Arrangements must be requested and approved prior to either party fishing; mid-season buddy-up is not permitted.
- **Only one buddy up arrangement is permitted** for the duration of the species fishing season.
- **Each licence holder in a buddy-up arrangement must be on board the vessel** while their own fishing gear/ quota is being fished, landed and offloaded . The registered vessel operator must always be on board the vessel.

Newfoundland and Labrador Policies cont'd

- Licence holders involved in a **buddy-up may not register or lease another vessel or allow their vessel(s) to be registered or leased by another harvester**, during the species fishing season; the unused vessel(s) will be left to be utilized, if required, by those in the buddy-up.
- **Buddy-up** is authorized in the following fisheries:
 - 3K Capelin;
 - Area 14 Mackerel, Herring and Capelin;
 - 4R3Pn Cod;
 - Area 2-9, 10A, 12 and 13 Snow crab;
 - Areas 12-14C Lobster.
 - There are some species-specific rules for Buddy-up.

Engagement Question

What concerns do you have, if any, about vessels and vessel-services (Vessel Leasing, Renting, Charters) provided through third-parties (processors, brokers etc...) undermining Owner Operator?

Engagement Question

What concerns do you have, if any, about Owner Operator policies, exceptions, or accommodations (Buddy Up) providing an opportunity for third party control?

Engagement Question

What other concerns do you have, if any, about vessel sharing arrangements that support, or provide exceptions to, Owner Operator?

Thank You

QUESTIONS?