



GREG PRETTY
President

JASON SPINGLE
Secretary-Treasurer

2024 CRAB SURVEY APPLICATION PACKAGE

Thank you for your interest in the 2024 Collaborative Post-Season (CPS) snow crab survey.

Information from the CPS snow crab survey is crucial for the assessment and management of the snow crab resource, both for specific crab management areas and for broader assessment divisions. Data from this crab survey is crucial for tracking changes to the resource in crab management areas (such as 3K-3C and 3K4-Offshore or 3L-6C and 3L-Midshore Extended) and is crucial for determining the status and health of the stock at the broader assessment division level (such as 3K or 3LNO).

The goal of the CPS survey is to ensure that:

- (1) necessary data are collected and used in assessment and management, and
- (2) that the process and compensation are fair and equitable.

In 2023, a number of survey blocks were incomplete, which resulted in limited data available for assessment and management. 2023 was a difficult year in the Newfoundland and Labrador snow crab fishery, which no doubt contributed to lower survey completion. As a result of lessons learned from the past year and following consultations with harvesters, we identified improvements to the implementation of the snow crab survey should reduce the number of incomplete survey blocks in 2024 and moving forward.

Current improvements to the 2024 CPS snow crab survey include:

- 1) Review of quota used to compensate harvesters per survey block based on distance from land, distance among stations, and total number of stations.
- 2) Mailouts, applications and draw dates will be four (4) weeks earlier in 2024 than in 2023 and additional FFAW staff resources will ensure harvesters are contacted sooner.
- 3) Additional FFAW field technicians were hired and trained for the CPS survey, and there will be continued observer request tracking and coordination with *Seawatch*.
- 4) Implementation of consequences for late survey dropouts, either after August 15 or two weeks after survey license has been issued, whichever is later.

In recent years there has been an increase in late dropouts from the survey, meaning harvesters who accept the survey, sign the agreement, but then drop out from the survey late in the season. Late dropouts may result in there being little or no time for other harvesters available to complete the survey. In the past, there have been no disincentives nor consequences for late dropouts.



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Starting in 2024, harvesters who accept the survey and then drop out after August 15, 2024 or drop out after 2 weeks after receiving their survey license, whichever date is later, will be placed in Pool 10 the following year.

The FFAW recognizes that there can be extenuating circumstances, such as health and vessel issues, that could lead to late dropouts. Harvesters facing late dropout penalties can appeal the decision, any such appeals would be reviewed by December 2024. This review is meant to ensure that circumstances are applied consistently across fleets and meant to recognize that extenuating circumstances can occur.

Taken together, these changes should help ensure a more complete 2024 crab survey. These changes will be reviewed by crab fleet chairs and FFAW staff in the fall of 2024.

Please direct any questions regarding these changes to Erin Carruthers (709-576-7276).
