

2024 Industry-DFO Post Season Snow Crab Survey

Deadline for Applications June 7th, 2024.

Draw Eligibility Requirements

- Licensed to fish commercially for snow crab in 2024 and commit to fulfilling all requirements specified in “Enterprise Owner Requirements”.
- The enterprise owner (**license holder**) and crew must be paid up to date members of the FFAW and registered with the Professional Fish Harvesters Certification Board to participate in the survey.
- At the **time the draw** takes place an enterprise owner:
 - Must have a vessel registered (**in her or his name**) and that vessel must be “fishing ready” and meet the criteria listed in “**Vessel Requirements**” (see section on page 2).
 - OR must have participated in the 2024 commercial snow crab fishery under a “Buddy up” arrangement and is applying for this survey based on that same buddy up arrangement. The vessel used in that buddy up arrangement must be “fishing ready” and must meet the criteria listed in “**Vessel Requirements**” (see section on page 2).
- **There will be NO LEASING of vessels after the draw has been conducted.**

Due to the increased interest by enterprise owners in participating, and the increase in the number of applications received each year, in 2022 the number of pools increased from six (6) draw pools to ten (10) draw pools.

For 2024 the following will apply for all areas:

- Applicants who participated in **2014 or earlier** or have **never participated** will be placed in **Pool 1**.
- Applicants who participated in **2015** will be placed in **Pool 2**. Applicants in Pool 2 will only become eligible after all those from pool 1 have been given an opportunity to participate in 2024.
- Applicants who participated in **2016** will be placed in **Pool 3**. Applicants in Pool 3 will only become eligible after all those from pool 1 to 2 have been given an opportunity to participate in 2024.
- Applicants who participated in **2017** will be placed in **Pool 4**. Applicants in Pool 4 will only become eligible after all those from pool 1 to 3 have been given an opportunity to participate in 2024.
- Applicants who participated in **2018** will be placed in **Pool 5**. Applicants in Pool 5 will only become eligible after all those from pool 1 to 4 have been given an opportunity to participate in 2024.
- Applicants who participated in **2019** will be placed in **Pool 6**. Applicants in Pool 6 will only become eligible after all those from pool 1 to 5 have been given an opportunity to participate in 2024.
- Applicants who participated in **2020** will be placed in **Pool 7**. Applicants in Pool 7 will only become eligible after all those from pool 1 to 6 have been given an opportunity to participate in 2024.
- Applicants who participated in **2021** will be placed in **Pool 8**. Applicants in Pool 8 will only become eligible after all those from pools 1 and 7 have been given an opportunity to participate in 2024.
- Applicants who participated in **2022** will be placed in **Pool 9**. Applicants in Pool 9 will only become eligible after all those from pools 1 to 8 have been given an opportunity to participate in 2024.
- Applicants who participated in the **2023** survey will be placed in **Pool 10**. Applicants in Pool 10 will only become eligible after all those from pools 1 to 9 have been given an opportunity to participate in 2024.
- Applicants will only apply to the survey within the **crab management area(s) they were licensed to fish commercially** during 2024. Separate draws will be conducted for each crab management area(s) and/or fleet.
- Draws for this survey are conducted annually.

Enterprise Owner Compensation

Since **2013** compensation for participating in the survey has been an allocation of snow crab which is added to participating fish harvesters' license for the following fishing season. **Participants who successfully complete the 2024 survey will receive a snow crab allocation for the 2025 commercial fishery.** The snow crab allocation will provide a good level of compensation and additionally that compensation will become EI insurable. The amount of resource allocation available is dependent on the survey coordinates assigned. As in previous years, the amount of the resource allocation will be dependent on the distance from shore and the number of set locations required to be completed. Please note the allocation will be for **ONLY the 2025 commercial fishery.**

After the draw is complete, fish harvesters will be contacted based on the order of the name drawn and advised of the survey areas and the amount of crab allocation available for those areas. FFAW staff will contact harvesters once the draw is completed. **Harvesters have 48 hours to accept or decline the survey.**

FFAW staff will move on to the next harvester after the 48-hour time period. Please ensure all available methods for contacting the applicant are listed on the application.

Enterprise Owner Requirements

- Enterprise owners will enter into a contract that will specify all the requirements, procedures, and compensation for participating in the survey.
- ****Enterprise owners will be required to pay a fee for participating in this survey. The fee will be paid when the fish harvester signs his/her contract with the FFAW. The fee will be payable to "The Industry Snow Crab Survey".**
- Enterprise owners accepting a survey must sign the contract and pay the fee within **48 hours** of being advised they have been selected from the draw.
- Enterprise owner must provide a crew list for the survey. Enterprise owners must ensure any outstanding arrears are paid at the time the contract is signed.
- After the contract is signed and the fee paid, DFO will issue a survey license to the enterprise owner. The experimental license (and all related documentation) must be in the possession of the enterprise owner before any survey activity takes place.
- **NEW to 2024:** Due to the increased number of late dropouts, which can result in incomplete or missed survey blocks, **consequences for late dropouts** will be applied. Harvesters who accept the survey and then dropout after August 15, 2024, or who dropout 2 weeks after their survey license was issued, whichever is date is later, **will be placed in pool 10 the following year.**
- Because extenuating circumstances, such as health or vessel issues, can occur, harvesters facing late dropout penalties can request that their case be reviewed. This review team will (1) ensure penalties are applied consistently across crab fleets, and (2) that there is recognition that extenuating circumstances can occur and that harvesters should not be penalized for circumstances such as documented health or safety issues.
- No penalties are applied if harvesters decline the survey or accept the survey but then drop out prior to August 15 or within 2 weeks of their survey license being issued.
- **THERE WILL BE NO OTHER FISHING ACTIVITY CONDUCTED, FOR ANY SPECIES, WHILE THE VESSEL IS PARTICIPATING IN THE SNOW CRAB SURVEY.**
- The enterprise owner must provide space for a Seawatch or FFAW Field Technician to work onboard the vessel during the conduct of the survey.
- Enterprise owners must provide crab pots with 5.5-inch mesh, ropes, buoys, and weights as required for completing the survey. Fleets of pots must be configured, baited, deployed, and retrieved as per the gear requirements in "Survey Design" (see section below).
- Enterprise owners must ensure that the vessel has a functional GPS and depth sounder onboard.
- The enterprise owner will provide crew, fuel, bait, and all items related to fishing commercially for crab.

Vessel Requirements – in order to complete the required sampling and soak time for the 2024 Industry – DFO Post Season Snow Crab Survey, the vessel requirements are as follows:

- **Minimum vessel registered length is 34.'**
- The requirement for having a decked vessel will no longer be required.
- Vessels may be inspected prior to a survey license being issued.
- At the discretion of observers/technicians, vessels deemed not suitable will **not be eligible** to be used in the survey.

Survey Design

- The survey will cover all crab management areas in 2J3KLNOP4R.
- **BEFORE ANY GEAR IS SET – OBSERVER COVERAGE MUST BE ARRANGED.**
- The survey design includes both core and random stations, with core stations set in fixed gridded pattern and located on historic crab fishing grounds. Starting in 2018, 50% of survey stations are randomly selected. The purpose of the random stations is to collect information, especially recruitment information, over a broader depth and distribution.
- Participants will be assigned specific coordinates for setting each fleet of gear. Where possible these coordinates will be grouped to minimize travel time/distance. Those coordinates will be within the crab management zone that the participant was licensed to fish commercially during 2024.
- Each fleet will be configured so that pots are 25 fathoms apart.
- In the inshore zones, commercial crab pots (5.5-inch mesh) will be set in fleets of 6 pots. In the offshore zones each fleet will contain 10 pots.
- Small mesh pots – provided by the FFAW - will be inserted as pot number 4 in the fleet. As a result, all fleets with small mesh pots will be a total of 7 pots in inshore areas and 11 pots in offshore areas. All stations will have a small mesh pot.
- Each fleet will be weighted with a 20-pound weight on each haul up rope, 15 fathoms from the first pot. Un-baited crab pots cannot be used as weights.
- Each pot will be baited with 3 pounds of squid on 1 skiver. NO bait protection devices will be used.
- The minimum soak time is **12 hours for offshore and inshore** fleets.

Sampling and Data Recording

- Detailed sampling procedures and protocols will be given to enterprise owners prior to the start of the survey.
- There will be 100% at sea observer coverage. Onboard observers and/or field technicians will be responsible for sampling and data recording activity. Enterprise owners and/or crew are required to provide some assistance when requested.
- The catch from small mesh pots will be sampled on-board, **NO SAMPLES WILL BE LANDED.** As a condition of the survey license, **ALL** crab and other species must be released in a manner to best ensure post-release survival.

If you require additional information, please contact April Wiseman or Ian Ivany (St. John's) at 709-576-7276

Or email: awiseman@ffaw.ca or iivany@ffaw.ca

The draw will be conducted in mid-June and will be officially certified by an independent entity (i.e., an accounting firm). After the draw, we will be contacting the selected enterprise owners, in order that the names were drawn, until all survey coordinates have been assigned.

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS: JUNE 7TH AT 4:30 PM

EMAIL APPLICATION:

crabsurvey@ffaw.ca

Or

Fax application to [709-576-1521](tel:709-576-1521)