

**FISHERMEN AND SCIENTISTS RESEARCH SOCIETY  
PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Halifax -- July 13, 1998

**16 COMMERCIAL LONGLINE VESSELS PARTICIPATING IN GROUND FISH SENTINEL PROGRAM**

Sixteen commercial longline vessels have been selected to participate in the 1998 4VsW Sentinel Program, a joint project of the Fishermen and Scientists Research Society (FSRS) and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO). The Program is a continuation of the Sentinel Program begun in 1995. The FSRS is a non-profit partnership between fishermen and scientists whose objective is to learn more about the health of fish stocks in the Maritimes Region.

The 1998 4VsW Sentinel Program consists of two components. One is a Sentinel (Stratified Random) Survey in which fishing locations are preselected randomly by computer. The second is a Commercial Index which will permit a limited amount of commercial fishing effort following fishermen's customary fishing patterns. Scientists would like to establish a series of catch rate and abundance indices which will be valuable in the assessment and management of primary groundfish resources. In addition to providing valuable data, Sentinel Programs foster a closer working relationship between fishermen and fisheries scientists and managers.

Applications to participate in the Program were reviewed on June 24, 1998 in Dartmouth by a Selection Board representing a cross-section of interested parties: two representatives from the FSRS, and one representative each from the Eastern Shore Fishermen's Protective Association and Halifax West Commercial Fishermen's Association. Mr. Clarrie MacKinnon, Marine Advisor for the provincial Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, served as independent chair of the Board.

Mr. MacKinnon indicated that although the number of applications was down from 1997, it was difficult to select those for the Random Survey Phase of the Program as all were good. The selection criteria included geography, personnel and personal suitability, violations/sanctions history, past participation, general experience, and vessel safety and suitability. Mr. MacKinnon stated, "The committee works through a point system and every effort is made to ensure that the process is fair. This year in a couple of cases, with the closeness that existed, it came down to geographic factors, and spreading participants to ports throughout the entire area."

Participating in the 1998 4VsW Sentinel Program are: Paul Drew - Sambro, Nick Henneberry - Sambro, Rick Jewers - Ecum Secum, Peter Connors - Sober Island, Hubert Boutilier - Mushaboom, Randy Boutilier - Mushaboom, Bryan Campbell - Louisbourg, Keith Eisan - Three Fathom Harbour, Charles Karsten - Jeddore, William Karsten - Jeddore, Dale Garrison - Sambro, Patrick Gray - Sambro, Roger George - White Head, James Gray - Sambro, Jerry Creamer - Canso, and Kevin Keating - Petit-de-Grat.

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