

**FISHERMEN AND SCIENTISTS RESEARCH SOCIETY  
PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Halifax -- July 12, 1999

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

Twenty-three commercial longline vessels have been selected to participate in the 1999 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 1999 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 22, 1999 in Dartmouth by a Selection Board representing a cross-section of interested parties: three 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 stated, "Once again the Selection Committee did a thorough review of all applications and rated applicants on a point system, with vessel suitability, personal qualifications, violations, and references as the primary criteria." "A sense of fairness is key to the whole process and all committee members took care to ensure this objective was achieved," said MacKinnon.

Participating in the 1999 4VsW Sentinel Program are: Nick Henneberry - Sambro, Paul Drew - Sambro, Peter Connors - Sober Island, Rick Jewers - Ecum Secum, Randy Boutilier - Mushaboom, Keith Eisan - Three Fathom Harbour, Silby Barrett - Glace Bay, Hubert Boutilier - Mushaboom, Patrick Conway - White Head, Ben Fudge - Louisbourg, Roger George - White Head, James Gray - Sambro, Dale Garrison - Sambro, Patrick Gray - Sambro, Doug Kaiser - Port Bickerton, John Matias - Louisbourg, Rudy Matias - Louisbourg, Arthur Richardson - Mitchell Bay, Ronald Stevens - South West Cove, Eric Trimm - Louisbourg, Jerry Creamer - Canso, Donald Kent - Musquodoboit Harbour, and Barry Slaunwhite - Pleasant Point.

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