

**FISHERMEN AND SCIENTISTS RESEARCH SOCIETY
PRESS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Halifax -- July 6, 2000

13 COMMERCIAL LONGLINE VESSELS PARTICIPATING IN GROUND FISH SENTINEL PROGRAM

Thirteen commercial longline vessels have been selected to participate in the 2000 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 2000 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 27, 2000 in Dartmouth by a Selection Board representing a cross-section of interested parties: three representatives from the FSRS, and one representative from the Halifax West Commercial Fishermen's Association. Mr. Clary Reardon, Marine Advisor for the provincial Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, served as independent chair of the Board.

Mr. Reardon stated, "The Selection Committee reviewed all applications for agreed upon criteria, including vessel suitability, experience and references. Although the numbers of applications reviewed was down slightly from last year, a number of excellent applications were approved for the 2000 4VsW Sentinel Program.

Participating in the 2000 4VsW Sentinel Program are: Nick Henneberry - Sambro, Paul Drew - Sambro, Rick Jewers - Ecum Secum, Randy Boutilier - Mushaboom, Robert Wilson - Sambro, Keith Eisan - Three Fathom Harbour, James Gray - Sambro, Adam Gray - Sambro, Patrick Gray - Sambro, Victor Gray - Sambro, Ronald Stevens - South West Cove, Eric Trimm - Louisbourg, and Jerry Creamer - Canso.

- 30 -

For more information:

Patricia King
Fishermen and Scientists Research Society
(902) 876-1160

Bill MacEachern
Marine Fish Division
Department of Fisheries and Oceans
(902) 426-3517