

FISHERMEN AND SCIENTISTS RESEARCH SOCIETY

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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12 COMMERCIAL LONGLINE VESSELS PARTICIPATING IN GROUND FISH SENTINEL PROGRAM

Twelve commercial longline vessels have been selected to participate in the 2001 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 2001 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 19, 2001 in Dartmouth by a Selection Committee representing a cross-section of interested parties, including two representatives from the FSRS, and one representative from the Halifax West Commercial Fishermen's Association. Mr. Clarrie MacKinnon served as independent chair of the Committee.

The Selection Committee reviewed all applications for agreed upon criteria, including personnel and personal suitability, violations/sanctions history, references, past participation, general experience, and vessel safety and suitability. Committee chairman Mr. MacKinnon said, "The selection task was easier this year due to a reduced number of applications." Mr. MacKinnon indicated he feels that decreased interest in the sentinel program is the result of a slow or non-existent recovery in 4VsW groundfish stocks, and participation by some fishermen in other fisheries.

Participating in the 2001 4VsW Sentinel Program are: Nick Henneberry - Sambro, Paul Drew - Sambro, Rick Jewers - Ecum Secum, James Baker - East Jeddore, Randy Boutilier - Mushaboom, James Gray - Sambro, Dale Garrison - Sambro, Patrick Gray - Sambro, Edwin Kirk - Sambro, Mark DeBaie - Little Harbour, Wayne Richard - Wine Harbour, and Jerry Creamer - Canso.

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For more information:

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

Bill MacEachern
Marine Fish Div., Dept. of Fisheries & Oceans
(902) 426-3517