

**FISHERMEN AND SCIENTISTS RESEARCH SOCIETY
PRESS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Halifax - November 3, 2003

27 FISHERMEN SELECTED FOR LOBSTER STUDY

Twenty-seven additional fishermen will be collecting data on juvenile lobsters as part of a project by the Fishermen and Scientists Research Society to look at size composition of catches. The Lobster Recruitment Index Project is designed to identify the number of lobsters caught under a specified size. Since size is one of the major considerations in the lobster fishery, the information generated by this study will be valuable to fishermen, as well as scientists and resource managers in the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), as they work to develop management and conservation plans.

This is the sixth year data will be collected for this project which began in the spring of 1999. A total of 158 fishermen are now participating in the project from ports throughout lobster fishing areas from Cape Breton to the Bay of Fundy. The specific objective of the Lobster Recruitment Index Project is to collect information in Lobster Fishing Areas (LFA) 27, 28, 29, 30, 31A, 31B, 32, 33, and 34 required to develop a short term recruitment index. This will be done by collecting catch information on: number of males and females, number of juvenile lobsters, and length of juvenile lobsters.

The Fishermen and Scientists Research Society (FSRS), a non-profit organization, is an active partnership between fishermen and scientists, developed with the overall objective to establish and maintain a network of trained fishing industry personnel to collect information relevant to the long-term sustainability of the marine fishing industry in the Atlantic Region, as well as to facilitate and promote effective communication between fishermen, scientists, and the general public.

Applications to participate in the project were reviewed on October 9, 2003 in Dartmouth by a Selection Board consisting of representatives from the FSRS and Mr. Bruce Osborne from the provincial Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, who served as independent chair of the Board. Representatives from the LFA's were also invited to sit on the Board, and provided input on applicants prior to the selection process. In reviewing the applications, fishing experience, data collection capabilities, geographical location and a clean record in relation to lobster violations/sanctions were taken into consideration.

Board Chair Bruce Osborne stated, "The FSRS Lobster Recruitment Project is entering its sixth successful year. The dedicated effort and commitment shown by project participants is apparent by the quality of the scientific information that is produced." Mr. Osborne also noted "Each year interest in the project grows as more fishermen recognize the benefits of the information gained. This project was met with skepticism in some areas a few years ago; now many ports have fishermen approved as alternates, waiting for their chance to participate. This project is a tangible example of co-management in the lobster fishery."

Selected to participate in the Short Term Recruitment Index Project were: Percy Fraser - Bay St. Lawrence, George Rambeau - Dingwall, David Pondanovitch - Dingwall, Michael Buffett - Neil's Harbour, Thomas Boutilier - Big Bras D'Or, Peter Harrison - Seal Island, Bernard MacDonald - False Bay, Gabriel MacKay - Little Harbour, Jamie Osborne - Eastern Passage, Tom Henneberry - Eastern Passage, Wayne Purdy - Halifax, David Baker - Big Tancook Island, David Schnare - Blandford/Deep Cove, Gerald Mossman - La Have, Rickey Joudrey - Voglers Cove, Gerald Risser - LaHave Island, Philip Irwin - Brooklyn, Donald Fralic - Liverpool, Victor Westhaver - Liverpool, Bradford Crouse - West Berlin, Todd Nickerson - Woods Harbour, Pius d'Entremont - Dennis Point/Lower West Pubnico, Ted Jacquard - Little River Harbour, Brent Pothier - Pinkney's Point, Wayne Pothier - Pinknery's Point, J. Roy Atkinson - Little River Harbour, and James McDormand - Westport. Also approved as alternates for their areas were Ricky Demings - Port Mouton and Derrick Purdy - Eastern Passage.

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For more information:

Patricia King

General Manager

(902) 876-1160

E-mail: pattyfsrs@auracom.com