



Meeting Summary

LFA 33/34 Science Committee

Tuesday, October 15th, 2019 @ 10:30am
Shelburne Fire Hall, Shelburne, NS

Participants

In Attendance	
NAME	POSITION AND/OR ORGANIZATION
Adam Cook (Chair)	DFO Science
Theresa Brown	DFO Yarmouth
Dwayne Surette	DFO Yarmouth
Jemie Lent	DFO Yarmouth
Sara Quigley	DFO Resource Management
Verna Docherty	DFO Resource Management
Bill Hatt	LFA 33 – Port Rep
Robert Harris	LFA 34 – Port Rep
Ashton Spinney	LFA 34 – Port Rep
Ernie Pierce	LFA 33 – Port Rep

Agenda Items and Corresponding Discussion Notes

1.	Agenda Item #1: Introductions / Code of Conduct	Lead – Adam Cook
	Round table introductions were made. Adam reviewed the Code of Conduct.	
	Action item: Nil	
	Reference Documents: Code of Conduct	
2.	Agenda Item #2: Review of minutes from June 12, 2018	Lead – Adam Cook
	The group was asked if there was still a desire to keep this science sub-group going. All in favor of keeping group, but with having the meetings earlier in the year. Suggested having the science sub-committee meetings post-season.	
	The minutes were reviewed and accepted.	
	Action item: Nil	
Reference Documents: Minutes from June 12, 2018		
3.	Agenda Item #3: Lobster Frame work	Lead – Adam Cook
	Adam explained the precautionary approach.	
	Primary stock indicators.	
	Framework outcomes.	
Adam explained the data sources used to assess the LFAs, specifically LFA 34.		



Need to maintain the component of immature lobsters that do not have a chance to mate.

Participants asked how DFO knows what is left in the water.

Concerns for damage incurred during the trawl survey.

June/July before molting concerns for FSC/moderate livelihood activity that is not being reported. It is important to have numbers that are reflective of what is out there. Adam commented that the more information Science has the better job they can do assessing the stock.

Adam referenced Brown's Bank. This is a closed area to lobster fishing. DFO does sample there.

A participant asked if a season is crucial to lobster fishing. That is a big question. It is important to avoid the mating and molting processes as much as possible. Participants expressed concerns regarding additional commercial efforts, moderate livelihood fishery.

The Fishermen and Scientists Research Society studies indicate that lobster migrate inshore to breed and then migrate off.

A comment was made that it would be helpful and productive to have indigenous participation on the science sub-committee, so these issues could be discussed together.

FSC reporting was questioned. Jemie explained that DFO is working with the First Nations communities to get better reporting.

Participants expressed concerns regarding how moderate livelihood fishing will be implemented and managed.

Participants indicated that they want to gain a better understanding of the indigenous fisheries and find better ways of working together.

Survey trends:

Seven year window is concerning.

Settlement surveys have been very variable, so there is not a lot of confidence in them.

Adam explained that Science is trying to incorporate climate into the models.

In the future the changes in bait may have to be incorporated. The by-catch program can help with that.

Industry catches are down, however the price is up, so there has not been a lot of concerns raised by industry.



A participant asked if science considers that lost gear needs to be reported. Lots of gear is lost and lots of gear is left out. Ghost fishing is a real issue that has to be addressed. By-catch concerns. There is a current initiative to deal with ghost gear, gear recovery program, which will be a focus for the next five years.

A participant asked if the science society by-catch information will be incorporated into the stock assessment. Adam confirmed that it will be.

A participant asked if the MPAs will be part of the HCRs in the future. Will fishing effort be moved to somewhere else? It is difficult to say what the impacts will be.

Brown's Bank is a good example of a closed area. Everyone is fishing around it. This closed area must be working. It is producing lobsters. It was noted that Brown's Bank is not recognized as a closed area because although there is no lobster fishing permitted there, there are other types of fishing permitted there.

Action item: Nil

Reference Documents: Science presentation

Agenda Item #4: Harvest Control Rules

Lead – Adam Cook

Adam told everyone that Brad Hubley was no longer working on Lobster, but had moved on to work as the Halibut Biologist.

Window would affect the offshore catches. Suggested a decrease of approximately 50%.

Seven years to see egg production changes.

Missing the economic piece where we can demonstrate what changes can be made to conserve the resource, but still make money.

4.

Focus on long term sustainability.

Spring is best quality fish and winter is when the market is better.

Could possibly have multiple measures.

Quality - soft lobster should be addressed in the future.

0.4 sustainability of the lobster species, but not of the fleet.

Smart to start the conversation early, of what measures to employ.

It was suggested that a sustainable fishery point should be incorporated along with the sustainable lobster species point.



<p>Trawl survey-</p> <p>New in the Bay of Fundy this year. Nothing to compare it to.</p> <p>No trawl survey in LFA 33 yet. Catches have increased in this area, so this should be of increasing interest.</p> <p>Looking to increase participation and scope. This will be mentioned at the upcoming LFA 33 and 34 Advisory Committee meetings.</p>	
<p>Action item: Nil</p>	
<p>Reference Documents: Harvest Control Rules Presentation</p>	
<p>Agenda Item #5: By Catch Monitoring</p>	<p>Lead – Dwayne Surette</p>
<p>Last year harvesters in LFAs 33 and 34 were required to hail daily or join the South West Lobster Science Society. This did not work well. Not a lot of trips were completed by Atlantic Catch Data (ACD) and Javitech.</p> <p>This year there is no hail requirement. Harvesters are required to sign up with the South West Lobster Science Society, ACD or Javitech, prior to their first fishing trip.</p> <p>5. A participant asked if First Nations licenses need to be registered with one of these groups/companies. Dwayne confirmed that they also do need to sign up with the South West Lobster Science Society, ACD or Javitech, prior to their first fishing trip.</p> <p>Participants relayed that a lot of harvesters are saying that they are not going to join one of these groups.</p>	
<p>Action item: Invite to aboriginal communities to be part of the Science Committee.</p>	
<p>Reference Documents: Nil</p>	

13:29 Meeting Adjourned