

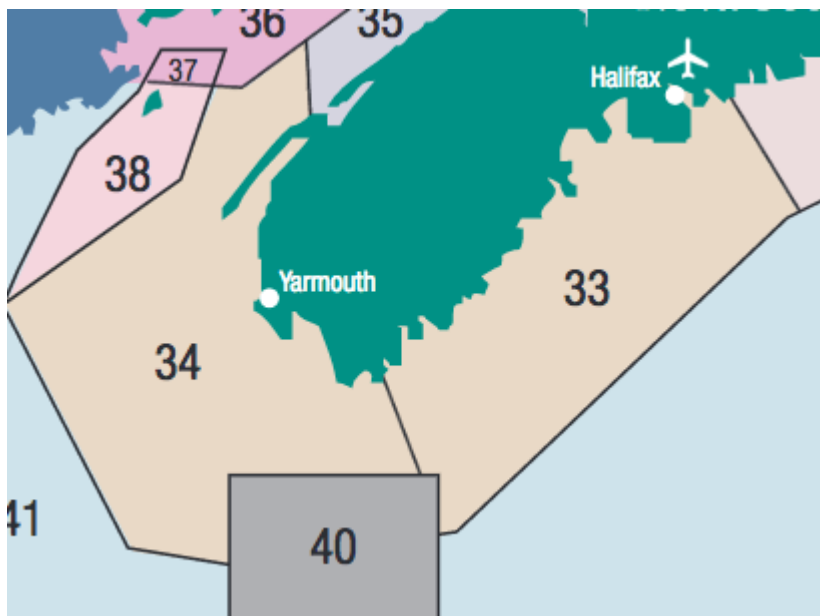
**SAR PLAN - (Initial)**  
**LFA 33 & 34 (SW Nova Scotia)**  
**SARP-2021-10-13**

**1.0 Disclaimer**

**All information contained in the initial brief is subject to change based on numerous environmental and operational variables.**

**2.0 Background**

- 2.1 LFA 33, extends from Cole Harbour to Goose Point, Barrington Bay and LFA 34 extends from Barrington Bay to Burns Point, Digby County.
- 2.2 LFA 33 has over 700 license holders, the trap limit per license is 250, and the fishing is mainly done well within 50 NM off shore.
- 2.3 LFA 34 has approximately 1000 license holders, the trap limit per license is 375, and the fishing is done further off shore than in LFA 33, up to 50 NM in some cases.
- 2.4 This particular fishery was identified as "high risk" in a 1987 Canadian Coast Guard study into fishing vessel safety.
- 2.5 The opening of the Lobster Fishery in Southwest Nova Scotia consistently generates high volumes of maritime SAR incidents and loss of life is a paramount concern.



**3.0 Risk Factors**

- 3.1 The state of the tide at season opening time.
- 3.2 Sea Temperature.
- 3.3 The urgency to set traps in specific areas
- 3.4 The high concentration of fishing activity in the relatively small area bounded by Yarmouth, Seal Island and Cape Sable Island make this the area of highest risk.
- 3.5 In LFA 34, the increased distance from shore of fishing grounds and the increase in trap limit results in boats making fewer trips with more traps on-board.
- 3.6 The reduction of search and rescue capability during the hours of darkness
- 3.7 Some setting of traps for LFA 34 will occur during hours of darkness
- 3.8 Severe weather can quickly increase the risk of this fishery

#### 4.0 Opening Times

**LFA 34 to open at 0600 AST** on Monday, November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021 and **LFA 33 to open at 0700 AST** on Monday, November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

#### 5.0 SAR Asset Allocation

##### Marine:

**5.1** The SAR West vessel will be stationed in vicinity of Seal Island at **0400 AST**. It will remain on scene until the majority of the initial fishing activity has subsided and it has been stood down by JRCC Halifax.

**5.2** The cutter in Westport will depart to arrive off Cape St. Mary's at **0600 AST**. They will remain on scene until the initial fishing activity has subsided and they have been stood down by JRCC Halifax. The second crew will hold standby with the FRC at the station in Westport while cutter is deployed.

**5.3** The PRIMARY CUTTER in West Head will depart and follow the density of the fishing fleet toward the South and East of West Head for **0600 AST**. They will remain on scene until the initial fishing activity has subsided and they have been stood down by JRCC Halifax.

**5.4** The SECONDARY CUTTER in West Head will depart to be South of Big Tusket Island at **0600 AST**. They will remain on scene until the initial fishing activity has subsided and they have been stood down by JRCC Halifax.

**5.5** The cutter in Sambro will depart to stand off Pearl Island at **0700 AST**. They will remain on scene until the initial fishing activity has subsided and they have been stood down by JRCC Halifax. The second crew will hold standby with the FRC at the station in Sambro while the cutter is deployed.

##### Air:

**5.7** 413 Squadron Cormorant helicopter will on 30 minute response standby as of 0600 AST and will remain on 30 minute operational standby until 1400 AST.

**5.8** 413 Squadron Hercules fixed wing aircraft will be airborne and on patrol over the expanses of both LFA 33 and 34 starting at 0600 AST and will remain airborne until 1400 AST.

#### 6.0 Notes

There will be multiple Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) vessels and patrol aircraft in the area prior to the opening. Their locations will be kept confidential for Conservation and Protection (C&P) reasons but they will be able to assist SAR whenever required. JRCC Halifax will be notified prior to opening of the intended operational areas of these resources.

There are numerous Coast Guard Auxiliary members in areas 33 & 34. The majority of these vessels participate in the Lobster Fishery and have a limited response capability due to loaded lobster traps on their own vessels.

Vessels of Opportunity may be available to assist. It is likely that the majority of these vessels will be participating in the Lobster Fishery and may have a limited response capability as their vessels are loaded with lobster traps.

All SAR assets should abide as closely as possible to the SAR briefing note and their tasking however the Commanding Officer / Aircraft Commander has overriding authority to take any action they deem necessary that may be in the best interest of the ship / aircraft, its crew or the vessels or persons to which it is providing assistance. It is understood that dynamic factors such as weather may create a necessity to adapt and deviate in some manner from the original SAR Plan and SAR assets should modify their position or intentions based on location of the majority of the fishing fleet. Should this be the case, please advise JRCC Halifax and ROC Atlantic.

## 7.0 CCG Crewing

### 7.1 Westport Station:

Full crew plus extra crew members to operate the FRC on opening day and 48 hours thereafter.

### 7.2 Sambro Station:

Full crew plus extra crew members to operate the FRC on opening day and 48 hours thereafter.

### 7.3 Clark's Harbour Station:

2 Full crews to operate 2 cutters on standby for the first 7 days of the season.

## 8.0 Weather

To be Determined in pre-season weather call which will take place 48 to 72 hours prior to the opening of LFAs 33 & 34

Gairot Sullivan

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