

**FISHERMEN AND SCIENTISTS RESEARCH SOCIETY  
PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Halifax -- January 14, 1997

**1996 4VSW GROUND FISH SENTINEL SURVEY SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED; RESULTS TO BE REVIEWED AT PUBLIC MEETINGS**

A series of public review meetings are scheduled to review the preliminary results of the 1996 4VsW Groundfish Sentinel Survey completed in December 1996. The survey, conducted by the Fishermen and Scientists Research Society (FSRS) under contract to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), provides valuable data on stocks under moratoria. Preliminary results of the analysis of the data collected during this year's survey will be presented at the meetings.

The 1996 4VsW Sentinel Survey was the second year of a program begun in 1995. It consisted of a longline groundfish survey with two components. One, a Stratified Random Survey, which required vessels to set gear at 252 pre-selected random locations. The second, a Commercial Index, during which activities emulated normal fishing patterns.

The FSRS hopes funding will be available to continue the program in the future. Scientists would like to establish a series of catch rate and abundance indices spanning at least 10 - 20 years. Such indices of primary groundfish resources would be valuable in the assessment and management of these resources. In addition to providing valuable data, Sentinel Surveys foster a closer working relationship between fishermen and fisheries scientists.

A series of public meetings is being held to review and discuss preliminary findings of the survey, review the goals, structure and operation of the 1996 4VsW Sentinel Survey, and provide participants and others with an opportunity to share their observations, evaluate the project and make recommendations for changes to improve possible future projects. Participants in the 4VsW Sentinel Survey, members of the Fishermen and Scientists Research Society, local fishermen, fishermen's organizations and other interested members of the coastal communities, media, etc. are invited to participate in the following meetings:

Port Hawkesbury - Nautical Institute	Tuesday, January 14th	7:00 p.m.
Sydney Area - Mira Road Fire Hall	Wednesday, January 15th	7:00 p.m.
Sheet Harbour - Blue Water Business Centre	Thursday, January 16th	7:00 p.m.
Liverpool - Royal Canadian Legion Hall	Friday, January 17th	7:00 p.m.

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