

**FISHERMEN AND SCIENTISTS RESEARCH SOCIETY
PRESS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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18 COMMERCIAL LONGLINE VESSELS PARTICIPATING IN GROUND FISH SENTINEL PROGRAM

Eighteen commercial longline vessels have been selected to participate in the 1997 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.

Thirty-seven vessels applied to participate in the Sentinel Program. The applications were reviewed on June 24, 1997 in Halifax by a Selection Board representing a cross-section of interested parties: three representatives from the FSRS, and one representative each from the Eastern Shore Fishermen's Protective Association, Halifax West Commercial Fishermen's Association, and Richmond County Inshore Fishermen's Association. Mr. Clarrie MacKinnon, Marine Advisor for the provincial Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, served as independent chair of the Board.

Eighteen vessels were chosen to participate in the Sentinel Program, with an additional six applicants chosen as alternates. Mr. MacKinnon indicated that some of those who were not successful were of equal quality but had to be weeded out through selection criteria based on geography, personnel and personal suitability, violations/sanctions history, past participation, general experience, and vessel safety and suitability. Mr. MacKinnon stated that "The process was organized, objective, and inclusive, and resulted in excellent successful applicants and alternates. Efforts were made to recognize coastal geography but this had to be balanced with the origin and quality of applications."

Participating in the 1997 4VsW Sentinel Program are: Paul Drew - Sambro, Nick Henneberry - Sambro, Rick Jewers - Ecum Secum, Peter Connors - Sober Island, Hubert Boutilier - Mushaboom, Bryan Campbell - Main-A-Dieu, Terry Baker - West Jeddore, Joe Burke - Louisbourg, Roger George - White Head, James Gray - Sambro, Doug Kaiser - Port Bickerton, Eric Trimm - Louisbourg, Arthur Boudreau - Port Felix, Jerry Creamer - Canso, Huntley David - Petit-de-Grat, Clyde Rudolph - Liscombe, Lawrence Rudolph - Little Liscomb, and Barry Slaunwhite - Musquodoboit Harbour.

The 1997 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.

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