

**FISHERMEN AND SCIENTISTS RESEARCH SOCIETY
PRESS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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13 COMMERCIAL LONGLINE VESSELS PARTICIPATING IN GROUND FISH SENTINEL PROGRAM

Thirteen commercial longline vessels have been selected to participate in the 2002 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.

The 2002 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.

Applications to participate in the Program were reviewed on May 24, 2002 in Dartmouth by a Selection Committee representing a cross-section of interested parties, including three representatives from the FSRS, and one representative from the Halifax West Commercial Fishermen's Association. Mr. Clarrie MacKinnon served as independent chair of the Committee.

The Selection Committee reviewed all applications for agreed upon criteria, including personnel and personal suitability, violations/sanctions history, references, past participation, general experience, and vessel safety and suitability. "The Selection Committee is pleased that all applicants for the 4VsW Sentinel Program in 2002 have been accommodated, although some did not get their first choice in area to be fished," stated Clarrie MacKinnon, Committee Chairman. There were one or two more applicants this year than last, " MacKinnon said, "but nothing like the numbers in the first years of the program." He attributed the slow recovery of groundfish and redirected fishing efforts for the reduced level of interest.

Participating in the 2002 4VsW Sentinel Program are: Nick Henneberry - Sambro, Paul Drew - Sambro, Rick Jewers - Ecum Secum, James Baker - East Jeddore, Randy Boutilier - Mushaboom, James Gray - Sambro, Dale Garrison - Sambro, Patrick Gray - Sambro, Victor Gray - Sambro, Mark DeBaie - Little Harbour, Roger George - White Head, Jerry Creamer - Phillips Harbour, and Arnold Eddy - Glace Bay.

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