

Fisheries and Oceans Canada’s Work Plans for fiscal 2017-18 in Response to Recommendation 2.28, 2.63 and 2.65 in the Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development’s (CESD) October 2016 Report 2- Sustaining Canada’s Major Fish Stocks – Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Introduction:

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) has developed three work plans in response to [Recommendation 2.28, 2.63 and 2.65](#) in the Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development’s (CESD)’s October 2016 [Report 2- Sustaining Canada’s Major Fish Stocks – Fisheries and Oceans Canada](#). The audit recommendations and Fisheries and Oceans Canada’s response to each recommendation can be found [in the audit report](#).

The three work plans identify priority actions for fiscal 2017-18 to:

- Develop precautionary approach reference points and harvest control rules for the major fish stocks.¹ This plan (work plan 1) is in response to recommendations 2.63 and 2.65.
- Develop rebuilding plans for major fish stocks that are in the precautionary approach critical zone that do not have a rebuilding plan. This plan (work plan 2) is in response to recommendation 2.28.
- Complete Integrated Fisheries Management Plans (IFMPs) for the major fish stocks that currently do not have an IFMP, update IFMPs as needed, and make IFMPs accessible via the DFO website. This plan (work plan 3) is in response to recommendation 2.28.

DFO will update the three work plans at the end of fiscal year 2017-18 with new priority actions to be undertaken in 2018-19. The work plans and their 2017-18 deliverables are described in the tables below.

Work plan 1: Precautionary Approach Reference Points and Harvest Control Rules

(A) Precautionary Approach Limit Reference Points (LRP) to be developed in fiscal year 2017-18

#	Region	Fish Stock	Description of Deliverables (2017/18)
1	Maritimes	American Eel (Adult)	Develop LRP by March 31, 2018.
2	Maritimes	American Eel (Elvers)	Develop LRP by March 31, 2018.
3	Central and Arctic	Arctic Char – Cumberland Sound	Develop LRP by March 31, 2018.
4	Gulf	Atlantic salmon	Develop LRP by March 31, 2018.

¹ ‘Major fish stocks’ refers to the fish stocks that are part of DFO’s annual [Sustainability Survey for Fisheries](#) published on the DFO website. These fish stocks were selected for the survey for their economic, ecological and/or cultural importance. The vast majority of the landings from fisheries managed by DFO come from these stocks.

(B) Other work scheduled in fiscal year 2017-18 to update and revise or begin to develop Limit Reference Points (LRP)

#	Region	Fish Stock	Description of deliverables (2017/18)
1	Pacific	Southern Inside Coho Salmon	Undertake work to refine reference points based on new science information.
2	Quebec & National Capital Region	Redfish Unit I and II	LRP refinements will be completed in conjunction with the Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE), which is anticipated to be completed by late spring 2018.
3	Newfoundland and Labrador	Northern Shrimp SFA 0-7	New assessment model under development which may lead to the review of reference points.
4	Maritimes	Gaspereau	Work planned to refine reference points based on new scientific information.
5	Maritimes	Lobster – Inshore LFA 34	Work planned to refine LRP. The work is expected to be finalized in fiscal 2018-19. Following this the IFMP will be updated by March 31, 2020.
6	Maritimes	Lobster – Inshore LFA 35-38	Work planned to refine LRP. The work is expected to be finalized in fiscal year 2018-19. Following this the IFMP will be updated by March 31, 2020.
7	Maritimes	Lobster – Inshore LFA 27-33	Refine LRP by March 31, 2018. Following this the IFMP will be updated by March 31, 2019.
8	Maritimes	Lobster – Offshore LFA 41	Refine LRP by March 31, 2018. Following this the IFMP will be updated by March 31, 2019.

(C) Work scheduled in fiscal year 2017-18 to develop or evaluate Precautionary Approach Harvest Control Rules

#	Region	Fish Stock	Description of deliverables (2017/18)
1	Newfoundland and Labrador	Cod – 2J3KL (Northern)	Current timelines anticipate being able to develop Harvest Control Rules in 2017-18 to inform the 2018 fishery management decisions. Targeting to complete work in early fiscal 2018-2019.
2	Gulf	Herring 4T Spring Spawner	Harvest Control Rules will be evaluated and implemented by March 31, 2018.
3	Gulf	Herring 4T Fall Spawner (Fixed Gear)	Harvest Control Rules will be evaluated and implemented by March 31, 2018.
4	Gulf	Herring 4T Spring Spawner (Mobile Gear)	Harvest Control Rules will be evaluated and implemented by March 31, 2018.
5	Gulf	Lobster Southern Gulf LFA 23,24,25,26A,26B	Harvest Control Rules will be evaluated and implemented by March 31, 2018.

Work Plan 2: Fish Stock Rebuilding Plans

DFO has prioritized the development of rebuilding plans for 19 fish stocks. In 2017-18, the priority is to complete, or bring to near completion, four rebuilding plans (Yelloweye Rockfish, Atlantic cod 4X5Y, and Redfish Unit 1 and Unit 2) and make progress to complete plans for three other stocks (Atlantic Cod-2J3KL, Atlantic Cod 5ZJM and Yellowtail flounder 5Z). This work plan will be updated in late fiscal 2017-18 to include new priority actions for 2018-19.

#	Region	Fish Stock	Expected Date of Completion (fiscal year)	Description of Deliverables (2017/18)
1	Pacific	Yelloweye Rockfish, inside/outside	By end of 2017/18	- The rebuilding plan for the outside stock will be revised to include measures for Yelloweye Rockfish – Inside.
2	Maritimes	Atlantic Cod – 4X5Y	By end of 2017/18	Develop a rebuilding plan. The plan will document measures taken to minimise fishing mortality including the harvest strategy and multiple year quotas.
3	National Capital Region	Redfish Unit I	June 2018/19	-By the end of March 2018: Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) will be available. The MSE is a simulation computer model that is used to make predictions about the stock status and to test different harvest strategies. -By the end of April 2018: MSE and Rebuilding Plan will be tabled at special meeting of the Gulf Groundfish Advisory Committee (GGAC). -By the end of May 2018: MSE and rebuilding plan will be submitted for approval.
4	National Capital Region	Redfish Unit II	June 2018/19	-By the end of March 2018: Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) will be available. The MSE is a simulation computer model that is used to make predictions about the stock status and to test different harvest strategies. -By the end of April 2018: MSE and rebuilding plan will be tabled at special meeting of the GGAC. By the end of May 2018: MSE and Rebuilding Plan will be submitted for approval.
5	Newfoundland and Labrador	Atlantic Cod -2J3KL	2018/19	DFO is currently engaged in a process involving industry, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador and NGOs to develop a rebuilding plan. It is anticipated that the rebuilding plan will be in place in fiscal year 2018-19, to inform the 2018 fishery management decisions.
6	Maritimes	Atlantic Cod – 5ZJM	By end of 2018/19	DFO will start work to develop a rebuilding plan. 5Z Cod is an international stock, managed through international science (Transboundary Resource Assessment Committee, TRAC) and management (Transboundary Management Guidance Committee, TMGC). The rebuilding plan will identify the harvest strategies and approaches taken to rebuild the stock. It is expected that the plan will be completed by the end of fiscal 2018-19. This plan will not require joint approval from the US, but would be communicated as part of an open and transparent relationship.
7	Maritimes	Yellowtail Flounder – 5Z	By end of 2018/19	DFO will start work to develop a rebuilding plan. 5Z Yellowtail is an International Stock, managed through international science (Transboundary Resource Assessment Committee, TRAC) and management (Transboundary Management Guidance Committee, TMGC). The rebuilding plan will identify the harvest strategies and approaches taken to rebuild stock. It is expected that the plan will be completed by the end of fiscal year 2018-19. This plan will not require joint approval from the US, but would be communicated as part of an open and transparent relationship.

8	Gulf	Cod, Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence - 4TVn	to be determined, pending completion of workplan in 2017/18	Develop a work plan that includes compilation of data on the stock and fisheries on the stock to support the development of a rebuilding plan.
9	Gulf	Herring 4T (Spring Spawner) / Hareng 4T (géniteurs du printemps)	to be determined, pending completion of workplan in 2017/18	Develop a work plan that includes compilation of data on the stock and fisheries on the stock to support development of a rebuilding plan.
10	Gulf	Plaice (American), Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence - 4T	to be determined, pending completion of workplan in 2017/18	Develop a work plan that includes compilation of data on the stock and fisheries on the stock to support development of a rebuilding plan.
11	Gulf	White Hake 4T	to be determined, pending completion of workplan in 2017/18	Develop a work plan that includes compilation of data on the stock and fisheries on the stock to support development of a rebuilding plan.
12	Gulf	Winter Flounder 4T	to be determined, pending completion of workplan in 2017/18	Develop a work plan that includes compilation of data on the stock and fisheries on the stock to support development of a rebuilding plan.
13	National Capital Region	Northern Shrimp – SFA 6	2017/18	Rebuilding plan currently in draft form.
14	National Capital Region	Mackerel (Atlantic) NAFO 3-4	2019/20	Departmental working group meeting to consider draft objectives and components of a rebuilding plan.
15	Quebec	Iceland Scallop - SFA 16ef, 18a	2020/21	Submit request to DFO Science for advice on the state of the stock to support development of the plan.
16	Quebec	Northern Beluga (Nunavik)	2020/21	A meeting is planned with harvesters to discuss the development of a rebuilding plan.
17	Pacific	WCVI Chinook	2020/21	Known rebuilding factors and threats will be summarized and later reviewed with stakeholders to begin discussion on development of a rebuilding plan.
18	Pacific	Herring Haida Gwaii (Pacific QCI)	By end of 2018/19	A meeting with stakeholders will be held to begin discussion on the rebuilding plan. The summary report from the workshop will aid in the development of a draft outline of the rebuilding plan.
19	Newfoundland and Labrador	3Ps Cod	2020/2021	Begin process to conduct a science framework assessment for the stock

Work Plan 3: Integrated Fisheries Management Plans (IFMPs)

(A) New Integrated Fisheries Management Plans (IFMP) to be completed in fiscal year 2017-18

#	Region	Fish Stock	Description of Deliverable
1	Maritimes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sea Scallop - Inshore SFA 28 (Bay of Fundy) Sea Scallop - Inshore SFA 29W 	New IFMP: One "Inshore Scallop IFMP" covering both stocks is in the final stages and will be finalized and posted on the DFO website in fiscal 2017-18.
2	Maritimes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Atlantic Canada Dogfish - 4VWNX -5 Atlantic Cod - 4X5Y Atlantic Cod - 5Zjm Atlantic Halibut -- 3NOPs4VWX+5 Haddock - 4X5Y Haddock - 5Zjm Pollock - 4X5 (Western component) Redfish Unit 3 Silver Hake -- 4VWX Yellowtail Flounder - 5Z 	New IFMP: One "Groundfish IFMP" for these ten stocks is under development. Anticipated completion by March 31, 2018
3	Gulf	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rock Crab - CFA 23 - 26 	New IFMP: "Rock crab in the Southern Gulf-LFA 24,25, 26A and 26B IFMP" will be finalized in fiscal 2017-18
4	Gulf	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scallop - Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence (SFA 21a, b, c, 22, 23, 24) 	New IFMP: "Giant scallops in the Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence- SFA 21 to 24 IFMP" will be finalized in fiscal 2017-18
5	Quebec	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lobster 19, 20, 21 	New IFMP: IFMP will be finalized and posted on the DFO website in fiscal 2017-18
6	Newfoundland and Labrador	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Herring – 4R 	New IFMP: IFMP will be finalized in fiscal 2017-18
7	Newfoundland and Labrador	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2J3KLPs Herring 	New IFMP: IFMP will be finalized in fiscal 2017-18

(B) Integrated Fisheries Management Plans (IFMP) to be updated in fiscal year 2017-18

#	Region	Fish Stock	Description of Deliverable
1	Central and Arctic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> North Slope Dolly Varden – Big Fish, Firth, Babbage, Vittrekwa 	The IFMP for Dolly Vardon will be updated by March 31, 2018.
2	Maritimes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elvers 	An update of the <i>Elvers IFMP</i> is anticipated to be completed by March 31, 2018
3	Maritimes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sea Scallop - Offshore SFA 26, German, Browns Sea Scallop - Offshore SFA 27, Georges 	An update of the <i>Offshore Scallop IFMP</i> is anticipated to be completed by March 31, 2018
4	Gulf	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Atlantic Salmon 	An update to be completed in fiscal year 2017-18.
5	Newfoundland and Labrador	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lobster – LFA 3,4,6-9,12,13AB,14C Lobster – LFA 5,10,11,14A-B 	<i>NL Lobster IFMP</i> will be updated with a target of fall 2017.
6	National Capital Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Northern Shrimp – SFAs 0 -7 	Northern Shrimp IFMP will be updated in fiscal year 2017-18.
7	Pacific	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eulachon 	Update to IFMP by end of fiscal year 2017-18.
8	Central and Arctic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Atlantic Walrus - Baffin Bay (High Arctic) Atlantic Walrus - Northern Foxe Basin 	Final version of the IFMP for Atlantic Walrus (<i>Odobenus rosmarus rosmarus</i>) in the Nunavut Settlement Area” to be sent to Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB) for final approval in fiscal 2017-18. Signing of the final IFMP expected in fiscal year 2017-18.
9	National Capital Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bluefin Tuna – Western Atlantic 	Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna IFMP will be updated in fiscal year 2017-18.

(C) Integrated Fisheries Management Plans (IFMPs) that will be made accessible via the DFO website in fiscal 2017-18

#	Region	Fish Stock	Description of Deliverable
1	Central and Arctic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Atlantic Walrus - Baffin Bay (High Arctic) Atlantic Walrus - Northern Foxe Basin 	IFMP will be made accessible online after approval, in 2017-18
2	Maritimes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Atlantic Canada Dogfish 4VWNX -5 Atlantic Cod - 4X5Y Atlantic Cod - 5Zjm Atlantic Halibut -- 3NOPs4VWX+5 Haddock - 4X5Y Haddock - 5Zjm Pollock - 4X5 (Western component) Redfish Unit 3 Silver Hake -- 4VWX Yellowtail Flounder - 5Z 	Groundfish IFMP will be made accessible online, after completion by March 31, 2018.
3	Maritimes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lobster - Inshore 27-33 Lobster - Inshore LFA 34 Lobster - Inshore LFA 35-38 	Inshore lobster IFMP will be made accessible online, after completion, by March 31, 2018.
4	Maritimes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sea Scallop - Offshore SFA 26, 	The offshore Scallop IFMP is under development. Anticipated to be

		<p>German, Browns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sea Scallop - Offshore SFA 27, Georges 	made accessible online by March 31, 2018
5	Gulf	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cod, Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence – 4TVn • American Plaice – 4T • White Hake - 4T • Winter Flounder – 4RST • Witch Flounder – 4RST • Cod Northern Gulf of St. Lawrence (3Pn, 4RS) • Greenland halibut (turbot) (4RST) • Atlantic halibut (4RST) • Redfish Unit 2 • Yellowtail flounder – 4T 	<i>Gulf of St. Lawrence Groundfish IFMP</i> will be made accessible online by March 31, 2018.
6	Gulf	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Herring - 4T - (Spring Spawner) • Herring 4T (Fall Spawner) (Fixed Gear) • Herring 4T (Fall Spawner) (Mobile Gear) 	<i>The Herring in the Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence-Herring Fishing Areas 16A to 16G IFMP</i> will be made available online in Fall 2017.
7	Newfoundland and Labrador	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capelin – 4RST • Capelin – SA2+3KLPs 	IFMP will be made accessible , after completion of update, by March 31, 2018
8	Newfoundland and Labrador	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Herring – 2J3KLPs 	IFMP will be made accessible online, after completion of update, by March 31, 2018
9	Newfoundland and Labrador	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Herring – 4R (Spring and Fall) 	IFMP will be made accessible online by June 30, 2017
10	Quebec	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gulf Shrimp - SFA 8, 9, 10, 12 	IFMP will be made accessible online by March 31, 2018
11	Quebec	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lobster LFA 22 	IFMP will be made accessible online by March 31, 2018
12	Quebec	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greenland halibut (turbot) – 4RST 	IFMP will be made accessible online by March 31, 2018