



September 15, 2022

Mr. Tony Hooper
Resource and Fishery Advisor
Connors Bros. Clover Leaf Seafoods
< Tony.Hooper@connors.ca >

Dear Mr. Hooper:

I am responding to your correspondence of April 6, 2022, written on behalf of Connors Bros. Clover Leaf Seafoods, Fundy North Fishermen's Association, Grand Manan Fishermen's Association, Tobique First Nation, and Oromocto First Nation, and forwarded to me by the Honourable Ginette Petitpas Taylor, Minister of Official Languages and Minister responsible for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency. You wrote regarding the Southwest Nova Scotia / Bay of Fundy (SWNS/BoF) Atlantic herring fishery. I regret the delay in responding.

A stock assessment or stock update for SWNS/BoF herring is completed annually. The most recent stock assessment scientific peer review process meeting was held on March 31, 2022. The science advice demonstrates that, despite decreases in the total allowable catch (TAC) in recent years, the stock has declined further within the critical zone. The consensus reached in the scientific peer review process indicates that the path forward for rebuilding this herring stock requires a reduced TAC in 2022.

I understand that the SWNS/BoF herring Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) process has been long and challenging. Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) has worked closely with its partners and the industry regarding the MSE, and appreciates the contributions you and other industry representatives have made over the past several years. DFO hopes and expects these close working relationships to continue.

DFO also appreciates the economic importance of the Maritimes herring fishery to coastal communities in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. The Department is committed to managing this fishery to promote the long-term sustainability of the stock for future generations, recognizing that management measures aimed at rebuilding should strive to balance conservation-based needs with socioeconomic impacts.

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As Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard, I have given careful consideration to the thoughtful feedback that DFO has received from key partners and stakeholders regarding the MSE process and the critical status of the stock. Therefore, I have announced a one-year TAC of 23,450 tonnes for the SWNS/BoF herring fishery. In addition, I am delaying the implementation of the MSE model by one year to allow time to further evaluate data.

Thank you for writing. I look forward to our continued collaboration on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'JM', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

The Honourable Joyce Murray, P.C., M.P.

c.c.: The Honourable Ginette Petitpas Taylor, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Official Languages and Minister responsible for the Atlantic Canada
Opportunities Agency