



Fisheries and Oceans Canada Pêches et Océans Canada

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October 17, 2022

Matt Walsh
Connors Bros.
180 Brunswick Street
Blacks Harbour, New Brunswick, E5H 1G6
Sent via email: Matt.Walsh@connors.ca

Dear Mr. Walsh:

Subject: BoF/SWNS herring FIP end of year reporting needs

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) has received your request for additional information to support a fishery improvement project (FIP) in partnership with Ocean Conservancy. More specifically, you have asked for information on the status of the management strategy evaluation (MSE) for the Southwest Nova Scotia/Bay of Fundy (SWNS/BoF) management component of the NAFO Division 4VWX Atlantic herring (*Clupea harengus*) fishery. The 2022 TAC decision has been posted on the Department's website: <https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fisheries-peches/decisions/fm-2022-gp/index-atl-eng.html>.

In response to your request for an email or letter from DFO indicating the Minister's agreement with the Industry's intention to hire a third party independent expert to review the draft MSE, I confirm that the implementation of the MSE model is delayed by one year in order to give industry time to further evaluate the MSE in collaboration with DFO. DFO Science is supporting the industry evaluation of the herring MSE by answering questions of clarification about the process that was undertaken, as well as ensuring relevant information is made available for review (i.e. information that was made available to MSE working group members during the development of the MSE).

We support the FIP process and would like to note that DFO's participation in eco-certification processes is to provide factual, evidence-based information. Should you require further information about the herring fishery for the FIP, please contact Jennifer Saunders, Eco-certification Coordinator, Maritimes Region (jennifer.saunders@dfo-mpo.gc.ca).

Yours sincerely,

Jacinta Berthier
Regional Director, Fisheries Management
Maritimes Region