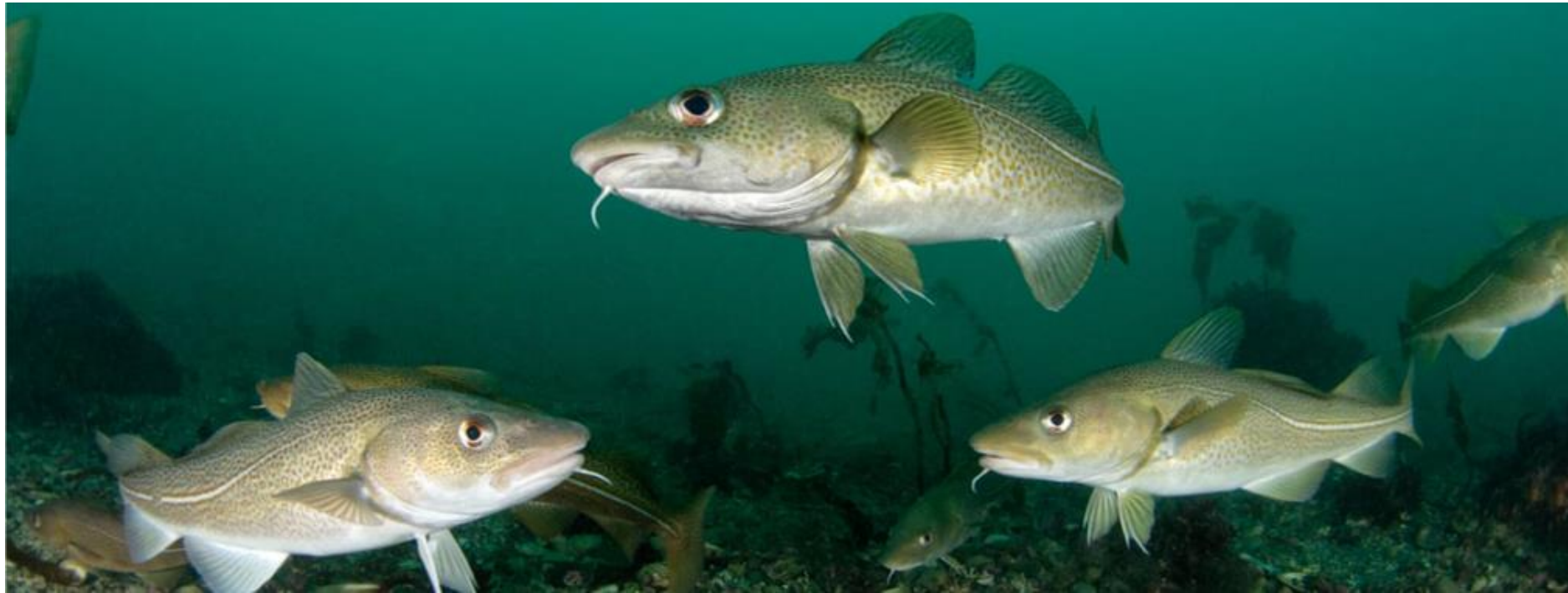




# Northern Cod Management Considerations and Approach



Northern Cod Fishery Improvement Project (FIP) Working Group Meeting

April 22, 2024

Barcelona, Spain

# Overview

- Departmental Mandate
- Northern Cod Recent History
- Decision Making
- 2023 Management Approach
- Resource Status
- Policies and Regulations
- Stakeholder Consultations
- Next Steps in 2024

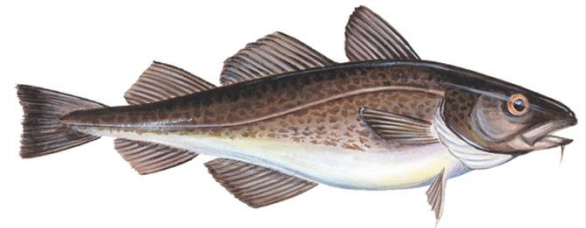
# Fisheries & Oceans Canada

## Sustainable Fish & Seafood

- Through sound science and a modernized *Fisheries Act* we carry out a broad mandate ensuring:
  - Sustainable management of Canadian fisheries and aquaculture
  - Protection of Canada's oceans and aquatic ecosystems ensuring they remain healthy for future generations
  - Providing economic opportunities to Canadians and coastal communities

# Northern Cod Recent History

- Stewardship Fishery established in 2006 to:
  - Obtain a better understanding of the 2J3KL cod stock
  - Develop a culture of stewardship amongst harvesters
  - Collect information for stock assessment (logbook, tag return)
  - Facilitate informed harvester participation in stock assessment processes



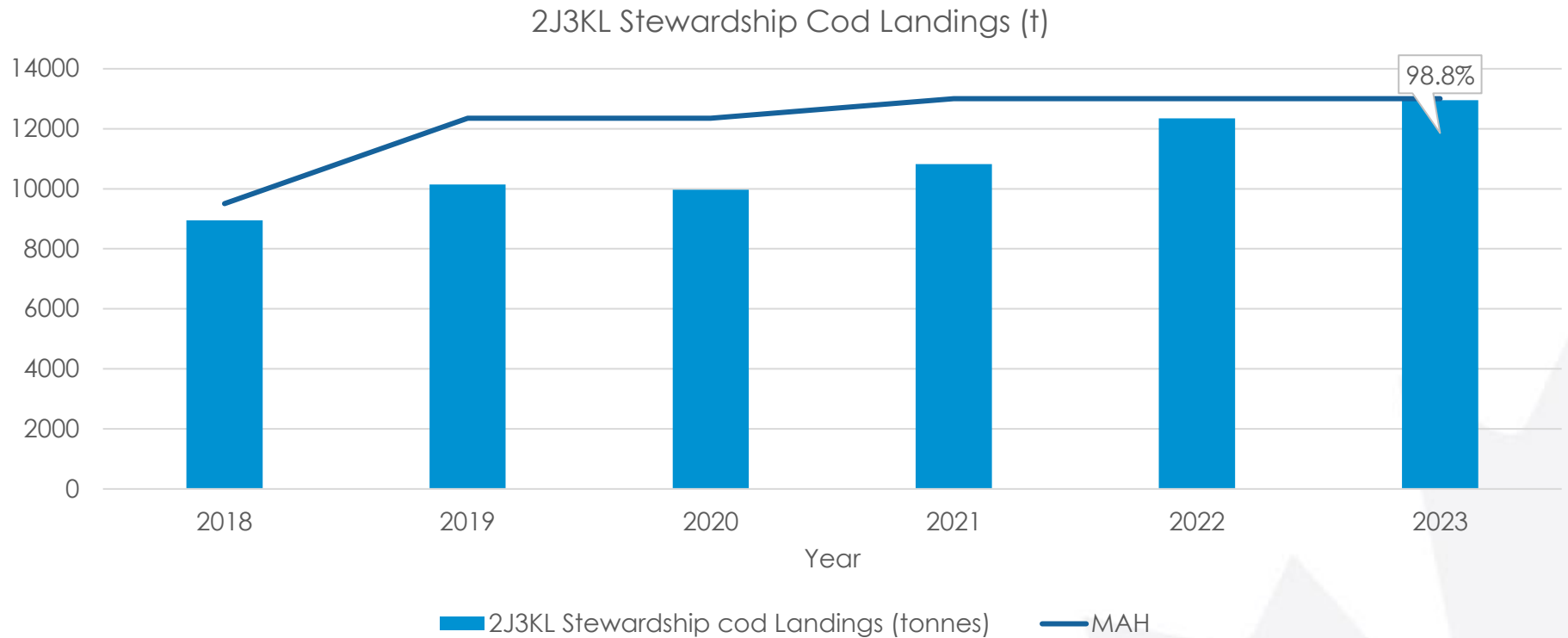
# Decision Making

- Management decisions consider:
  - Conservation, orderly management, economically prosperous fishing industry
  - Indigenous and Treaty rights
  - Socio-economic importance of fishery
- Decisions are supported by:
  - Science advice
  - Fishery legislation and policies
  - Stakeholder consultations
  - Socio-economic factors
- 2+3KLMNO Groundfish Integrated Fisheries Management Plan (IFMP) updated in 2021 and available online

# 2023 Management Approach

- 1 Year Management Plan
- Maximum authorized harvest of 12,999 t in 2023
  - Maintained at this level since 2021
- Set aside of 2,600t for 2J
- 2J:
  - Bi-weekly limits
  - Season: July 23 to October 14 (12 weeks)
- 3KL:
  - Weekly and bi-weekly landing limits in 3KL
  - Season: July 23-November 4 (15 weeks)

# Stewardship Cod Fishery 2018-2023



1. Maximum authorized harvest introduced in 2018.

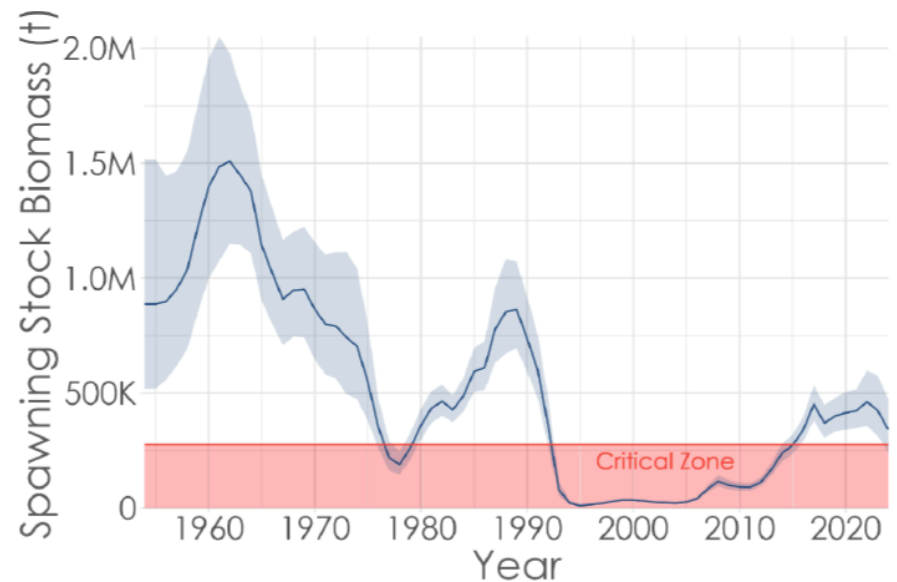
# Monitoring Control & Surveillance

- Northern cod is a regional priority for our Conservation and Protection Program
  - At-sea and dockside observers
  - Fishery Officers closely monitor activity
  - Overall compliance is very positive



# Resource Status

- Assessment model and Limit Reference Point updated
- Stock has been stable in the Cautious Zone since 2016
- Slight stock decline projected in the near term



# Fish Stocks Provisions

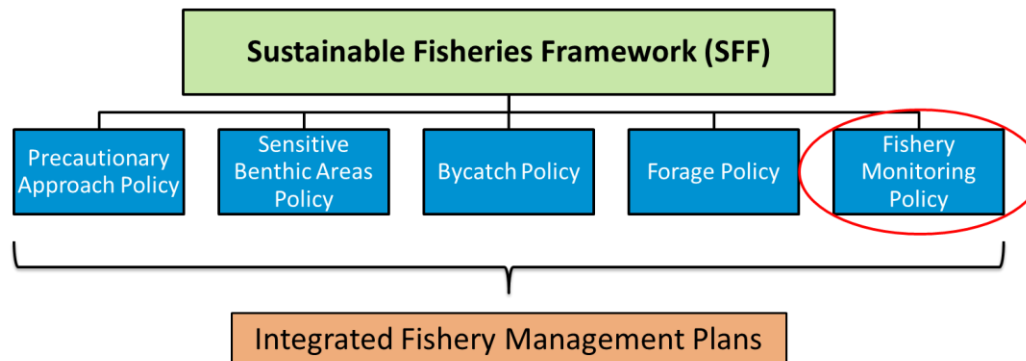
- Amendments (2019) to Canada's *Fisheries Act* include new Fish Stocks Provisions and requirements to:
  - Maintain major fish stocks at levels necessary to promote sustainability;
  - Develop/implement rebuilding plans for stocks that have declined to the Critical zone; and
  - Prescribe the list of major stocks to which provisions apply
- Amendments to DFO's Fishery (General) Regulations came into effect on April 4, 2022, which set out:
  - Required content for rebuilding plans for stocks at or below the LRP;
  - Timeline for completing a rebuilding plan; and
  - First 30 major stocks prescribed by regulation which includes 2J3KL cod

# Northern Cod Precautionary Approach

- Given Northern cod is currently in the Cautious zone, Rebuilding Plan is no longer legally required
- WG of DFO and stakeholders (IGs, Gov't of NL, various fleets, ENGOs) will develop Precautionary Approach elements including:
  - Objectives
  - Reference Points
  - Harvest Control Rule

# Fishery Monitoring Policy (FMP)

- The FMP is the latest policy in DFO's suite of Sustainable Fishery Framework (SFF) policies



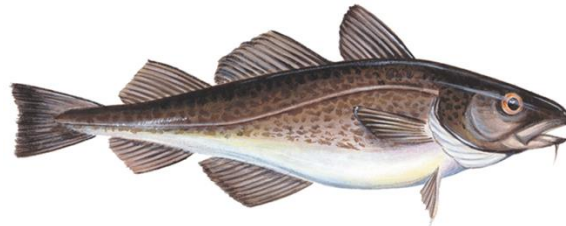
- FMP will be implemented on four priority stocks in the NL region (and 23 stocks nationally) over a five-year period (2023-2028)
- Northern cod is a priority stock

# Stakeholder Consultations

- 2+3KLMNO Groundfish Advisory Committee (GAC) meeting held in February to seek perspectives on an access and allocation approach for a Northern cod commercial fishery, should this be considered by the Department
- GAC meeting also held in March to review the recent science and seek perspectives on the management approach for 2024

# Next steps in 2024

- Communication of management decision: June 2024
- Work with stakeholders to develop the conservation and harvesting plan for 2024
- Continue to work with stakeholders on updating components of a Precautionary Approach
  - Will re-convene WG before fall 2024



END

