Canada redfish (Unit 3) – trawl – North Atlantic Ocean

# Summary

As stipulated in the workplan, consultations with the fishery stakeholders began in early January. The objective of these early meetings was to establish contact with the fishery stakeholders, introduce them to the concept of a FIP, and identify key issues they perceive as problematic for the fishery.

Early on during these conversations Tribune Seafood informed us that the fishery faced support issues from DFO Canada. Being a relatively new commercial fishery and shadowed by larger fisheries such as Haddock, Cod and Pollack, management for Redfish has not received the administrative support required to ensure that actions on the fishery are properly communicated. This was echoed by DFO Canada, who further identified the lack of direct communication between industry and science as problematic. To be clear, no animosity has been detected between the various groups, but rather a loose network of stakeholders that are poorly connected.

Going forward, the FIP will aim to bring the stakeholders together and participatively decide on how communication between the various groups can be improved. This will be conducted through a questionnaire followed by a round of interviews. The Sustainability Incubator will then devise a strategy based on the primary data received and a literature review of similar scenarios to propose an improved communications strategy for better implementation of the Redfish’s management plan and reduction in benthic habitat destruction.

# Record of Meetings

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| Date | Participants/Affiliation | Subject |
| 18/01/2022 | Alexander Ford – Sustainability Incubator  Katrina Nakamura – Sustainability Incubator  David Kadlec | * Consulting with Redfish processor (Tribune Seafood) to capture their insight on issues with the fishery |
| 27/01/2022 | Alexander Ford – Sustainability Incubator  Katrina Nakamura – Sustainability Incubator  Ricardo Federizon – North Atlantic Fisheries Organisation | * Understanding how NAFO policy is formed and influenced. |
| 23/03/2022 | Katrina Nakamura – Sustainability Incubator  Alexander Ford – Sustainability Incubator  Claire Mussels – DFO Canada | * Consulting with Redfish manager (DFO Canada) to capture their insight on issues with the fishery |

# Delays

The FIP is approximately 2-months delayed, due to an unforeseen decrease in Redfish by-catch in January and February. Fishers, targeting Haddock at the time, were alarmed by the low volume of Redfish by catch as this is an indicator of Redfish stock health (the Redfish season comes in March, April and May). Subsequently, the FIP stakeholders were preoccupied for some time trying to understand the true extent of the fishers’ observations.