

# Impacts of Last-In, First-Out Policy

**Presentation to Ministerial Advisory Panel** 

Newfoundland and Labrador Independent Fish Harvesters Association May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2016

### Newfoundland and Labrador Independent Fish Harvesters Association

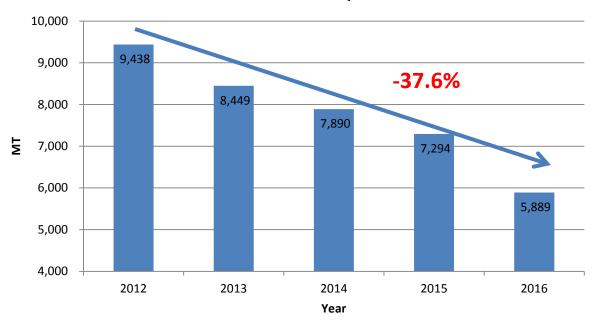
- Established in 2004
- NLIFHA represents enterprise owners in 3K
  - Vessels >40'
  - 175 harvesters
- Harvesters from small coastal communities
  - Rely on fishery for income
- Almost entirely dependent on shrimp & snow crab fisheries
  - 120 shrimp shares
  - 89 vessels
- Shrimp can represent between 60% & 70% of enterprise fishing income



# **Fishing History**

- Following groundfish moratorium our harvesters expanded into shellfish fishery
  - Substantial investment
- Depend on snow crab & shrimp for fisheries income
- No other significant fishery available
- Shellfish resource has declined considerably

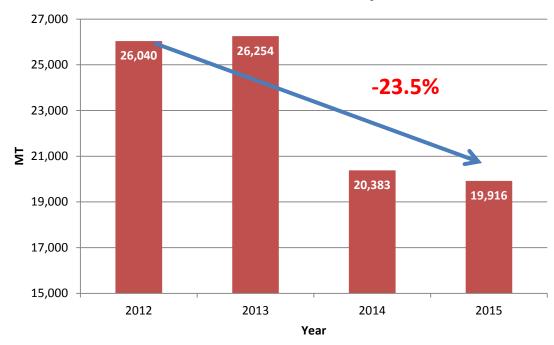
#### **3K Snow crab Quota**



- Since 2008 snow crab landings have decreased 52%
- Poor resource prospects
- 19.2% reduction in quota for 2016

- 3K share of Area 6 resource declined by 18%
  - Offshore declined only 9%
- Shrimp fishery governed by LIFO principle
- Poor resource prospects
- Likely substantial cut to quota
  - Could be as high as 40%
  - Inshore will take brunt of cut





# Northern Shrimp Fishery

- 1978 11 offshore licenses to 10 corporations
- 1979-1990 additional six offshore licenses
- After collapse of groundfish need by inshore grew
  - Temporary licenses issued in 1997 to vessels < 65'</li>
  - Temporary license converted to permanent licenses in 2007



### Continued

 With introduction of temporary licenses sharing principles introduced

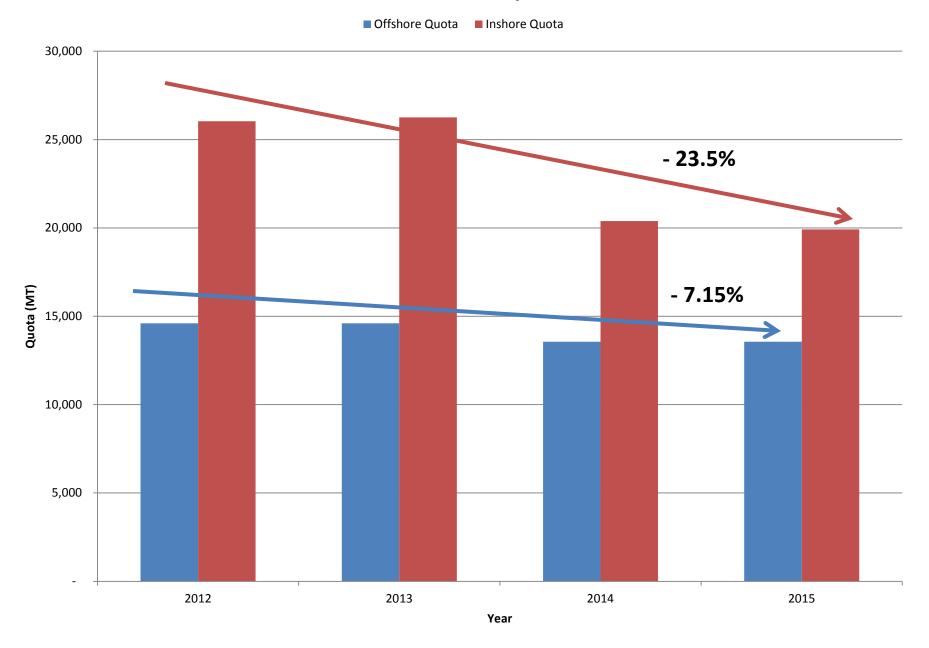
 Provided offshore shrimp license holders minimum allocation of 37,600MT (combined for all areas)

 If collective quota in all areas greater then threshold new licenses would be introduced

#### LIFO

- First described by DFO in 2003
  - Protect licenses with longest history
  - Ensures minimum offshore allocation to support viability
  - Results in disproportionate decrease to quotas
    - Offshore compared to Inshore
  - Does not consider inshore dependence on resource

#### Offshore vs Inshore Shrimp Quota Area 6



## **Importance**

#### **Inshore**

- 250 vessels 97.5% of catch landed n NFLD
- Catch processed in NFLD
- Support operation of 10 plants, 1,500 jobs – important to costal communities
- Significant economic spinoffs
- Dependence on shrimp increase with decreases in other fisheries (such as snow crab)
- Inshore fleet has harvested 100% of quota
- Limited mobility & hence options

#### Offshore

- 11 vessels 56.5% of catch landed in NFLD
- Majority held by companies outside NFLD
  - Involve significant foreign ownership
- Offshore shrimp processed at sea & offloaded in Europe
- What is landed in NFLD rexported for processing in other countries
  - In some cases competes with inshore shrimp
- Offshore fleet does not harvest 100% of its quota
- Year round season & not constrained to a single region
- Access to other species (i.e. turbot)
- All significant refit & maintenance takes place outside of Canada
  - Exporting jobs

## Importance to Inshore Harvesters

- Revenue \$52,600,000 for 120 3K shares
- Each inshore enterprise employs up to 5 individuals
  - Based on 89 vessels 445 harvesters
- Average crew wages \$55,000
  - \$25,000,000 (\$1,720/MT)
- Economic Spin Off \$120,000
  - \$12,000,000 (\$813/MT)
- Inshore shrimp fishery in division 3K contributes nearly \$40
  Million to economy
  - Does not include benefits achieved from onshore processing

### Continued

- Each pound of shrimp harvested creates \$1.15 in economic spinoffs
  - Costs associated with harvest & offload
- 2015 inshore 3K quota 32 Million pounds
  - Potential 2016 quota to decrease by 40% or more
    - 19,200,000lbs
- Decrease of 12.8 million lbs results in loss of \$15 million
- Reduction in quota & financial loss will be greater under application of LIFO

# Application of LIFO could lead to closure of inshore shrimp fishery

## Arguments against LIFO

- Adjacency
- Economic Dependence
- Catches
- Ill-Defined Concept
- Investment

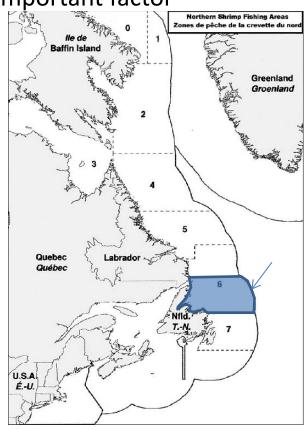


# Adjacency

Adjacency overriding principle by DFO in determining how quota allocated

1997 sharing principles mentioned adjacency as important factor

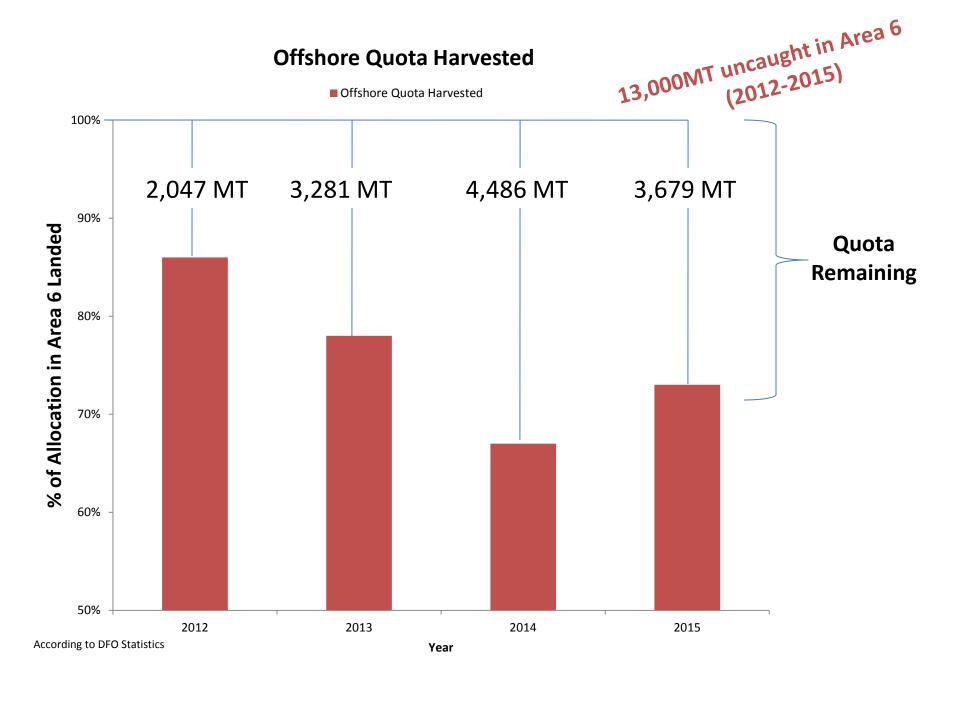
- 3K members immediately adjacent to Area 6
- Offshore sector includes corporations from
  - Nunavut, NS, PEI, QC, & NFLD
  - Some have significant foreign ownership



### Catches

3K fleet has harvested 100% of its allocation

- DFO quota reports indicate that offshore has only caught 76% on average since 2012
  - 13,400MT remaining in water
- Offshore have other areas & alternative fisheries
  - Such as turbot



# Ill-Defined Concept

- LIFO is open to interpretation
  - Clearly favoring offshore sector
- 2007 all temporary permits converted to permanent licenses
- 2007 IFMP stated that LIFO principle now applies to "new participants/allocations"
  - Description of what new participant/allocation was not provided
  - Inshore license holders should not be considered new entrants/participants
- LIFO policy should therefore not apply to inshore license holders

#### Investment



- Federal licensing policy has encouraged our harvesters to rationalize fleet
  - Combining
- Substantial investment & debt
  - Access to fishery significantly reduced by LIFO
- Typical 3K shrimp license with quota valued at over \$800,000

### Request

- Inshore should have exclusive rights to Shrimp Fishing Area 6
  - Major area for inshore fisheries
    - Snow crab, groundfish, etc
  - Offshore has significant quotas in areas further North
  - Will remove 12 month fishing pressure
    - Inshore harvest June to October
    - Egg bearing shrimp not caught
      - Release eggs in April/May
    - Eliminate bridging of uncaught quota unacceptable practice when stock is in distress according to DFO
  - Area 6 was not one of the original areas for offshore licenses

## Summary

- 3K Inshore fishery provides 445 at sea jobs
  - Equating to incomes of over \$24.5 million
- Each pound of shrimp harvested by inshore contributes \$1.15 to economy
  - Not factoring in plant employment
- Shrimp can represent 60-70% of an enterprise's income

