**Notice of interest and Fishing Plan**

**Unit 1 Redfish Reserve Allocation**

**(2024-25 season)**

**Preamble:**

As announced on May 31, 2024, 5,000 tonnes (t) from the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for Unit 1 Redfish for the 2024-25 management period (May 15, 2024 to May 14, 2025) has been set aside and held in reserve. This reserve allocation can be accessed by application. Applications will be distributed into **three tranches** **of application** and assessed on a case-by-case basis.

**Tranche 1**: 2,000 t for those ready to fish now until August 31, 2024

**Tranche 2**: 2,000 t for those planning to fish September 1 to December 31, 2024

**Tranche 3**: 1,000 t for those planning to fish January 1 to March 31, 2025.

Interested proponents who wish to apply for a reserve allocation in **Round 1** must complete an application form which can be found further below. **The** **deadline for the first round of applications is July 15, 2024. Applications will be assessed and allocations awarded on a first come first serve basis.**

For Tranche 1, successful applicants will be allocated a maximum of 200 t each, up to a maximum of 2,000 t for Tranche 1, on a first come first serve basis.

A Notice of Interest will be sent at a later date for Tranches 2 and 3. Those who fished a minimum of 25% of their allocation in Round 1 may be eligible for additional allocation in Tranches 2 and 3. Once the 5,000t reserve has been fully allocated, there would be no additional allocation.

Receiving an allocation from this reserve does not provide priority access or priority consideration in any future access or allocation decisions related to the Unit 1 redfish fishery.

Reserve allocations will be available to harvesters upon receipt of valid Conditions of licence. Carry Forward of individual unused reserve allocations from 2024-25 to the following management period will not be permitted.

**Objectives:**

The reserve allocation will be allocated with the following objectives:

1. Provide allocation to licence holders who are ready to fish during the 2024-25 season and can demonstrate as such;
2. Provide allocation to licence holders to undertake planned projects for the Redfish fishery (for example, projects related to electronic monitoring, improving gear selectivity, or those supported by the Atlantic Fisheries Fund (AFF) or Quebec Fisheries Fund (QFF)
3. Provide allocation to licence holders who participated in the index and/or experimental fishery to continue to fish.

**Eligibility Criteria:**

1. Proponents must be existing mobile gear groundfish licence holders with access to Unit 1 (NAFO divisions 4RST and/or subdivisions 3Pn,4Vn January-May).
2. Applications must be submitted from a proponent, regardless of the company/partnership configurations, that is majority owned (51%) by Canadian citizens.
3. Applications must be sufficiently detailed and demonstrate how they will **meet at least 1 of the objectives defined above**,and clearly specify their plans to fish in the current allocation round.

**Management Measures:**

Management measures for each recipient of the reserve allocation will be respective of the fleet sector which they are a part of, expressed in individual licence holders’ condition of licence and Conservation Harvesting Plan (CHP) for their fleet sector, including (but not limited to) any new measures announced on May 31, 2024:

* Seasonal and area closures;
* Depth and gear restrictions;
* ASO coverage requirements respective to the participants fleet sector;
* Mandatory VMS on all vessels;
* Small fish and bycatch protocol (i.e. Procedures for Monitoring and Control of Small Fish Catches and Incidental Catches in Atlantic Groundfish Fisheries);
* Mandatory dockside monitoring at 100% of the landings;
* Bycatch limits and caps for certain moratorium stocks (see table below). Bycatches will be counted against respective individual or fleet quotas for species under quota management.
* Bycatch measures for all other species including species at risk will be consistent with existing measures.

Bycatches of certain moratorium stocks will be counted against bycatch caps established for the reserve allocation, as announced on May 31, 2024:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Morue 3Pn4RS (kg)** | **Merluche Blanche 4T (kg)** | **Morue franche 4TVn (kg)** |
| Bycatch cap for total reserve allocation | 1,678   | 1,510   | 1,259   |
| Tranche 1: until August 31 | 671  | 604  | 504  |
| Tranche 2: September 1 to December 31 | 671  | 604  | 504  |
| Tranche 3: January 1 to March 31 | 336  | 302  | 251 |

Individual allocations are not guaranteed, and once the total bycatch caps for the reserve allocation are caught, the Department will assess whether bycatch can be re-allocated and may shut down fishing for the recipients of the reserve allocation.

**Application process:**

Fishing Organization / Individual Harvester Responsibilities:

* Prepare and submit application;
* Provide proof of contract of ASO coverage ready to be finalized once allocation awarded (Name of company, contract number);
* Please provide a detailed description of fishing plans (i.e. fishing start date, number of planned fishing trips, proof of agreements with buyer/processor, etc).
* If requested quota is to support a planned project (e.g. Quebec or Atlantic Fisheries Fund, electronic monitoring pilot project) provide details with respect to the project objectives and status.

DFO Responsibilities:

* Evaluation of applications;
* Issuance of reserve allocations and associated bycatch caps.

Eligible proponents will submit applications to the DFO email address, outlining how the eligibility criteria and objective(s) will be met:

Liliya.Baranova@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Proposals **for the first round of the 2024-25 season** **must be submitted to the above email address** **by July 15, 2024.** Applicants will be assessed in the order which they are received, with the objective to allow those that are ready to start fishing as soon as possible.

Incomplete or insufficiently detailed applications will either be returned with a request for further information or screened out subject to submission deadline constraints.

Once allocations are approved, licences will be issued by the relevant DFO regional offices.

**Application Form**

**Redfish Reserve Allocation - Unit 1**

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| --- |
| **Name of applicant:**  |
| **Name of organization** (if applicable)**:** | **Date of application** (mm/dd/yyyy)**:** |
| **Address:**  |
| **Number/Street/P.O. Box:**  |
| **City:**  |
| **Province/Territory:**  |
| **Postal Code:**  |
| **Phone #:** |
| **E-mail:**  |
| **Start date of proposed fishing activity:** (mm/dd/yyyy) | **End date of proposed fishing activity:** (mm/dd/yyyy)  |
| **Vessel Master**: |
| **Vessel Name:** |  |
| **CFV/Registration #:** |  |
| **Fishing area: (**NAFO Division and Subdivision within Unit 1)  | **At Sea Observer Company contracted and contract number (if applicable):** |
| **Fishing gear** (e.g. otter trawl, pelagic trawl)**:**(Include information appropriate to the gear type. e.g. mesh size, separator panels if any, and configuration etc...) |
| **Provide details for how the applicant will meet at least 1 of the objectives of the reserve allocation fishing plan and management measures:*** Applicant may attach a separate document with information on fishing plans and projects.

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| **Redfish reserve quota requested** in Round 1 (up to 200 t):  |
| **Buyer / Processor Contract Information:** Provide information on established buyer processor contract, if applicable.  |
| **Send completed applications to:** **Liliya.Baranova@dfo-mpo.gc.ca** |