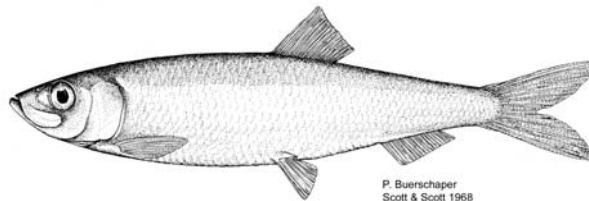




NL Region – West Coast and Labrador Straits Herring

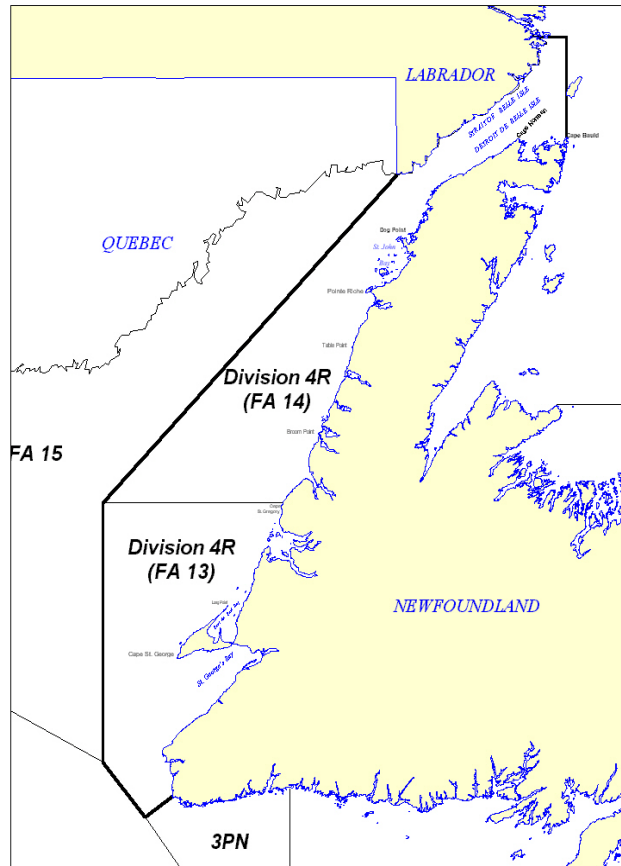
FRCC Briefing - January 2008



P. Buerschaper
Scott & Scott 1968



Area of Consideration





History of the Fishery

- Primarily an inshore fishery prior to 1965
 - Concentrated in the Bay of Islands area
 - Bar seines, gillnets and traps
 - Primarily as a source of bait for cod
- The fisheries of the late 1960's and early 1970's were primarily purse seine fisheries occurring in late fall and early winter
 - Limited gillnet fishery year round
- When catches along the southwest coast declined in early 1970's, vessels from the purse seine fleet began to move into the St. George's Bay area.
- Management area for West Coast of NL herring initially defined in 1977 with a TAC set at 12,500t.



Licence - Commercial

- Herring stocks in 4R currently exploited by 3 fleets:
 - large purse seiners (>65'),
 - small purse seiners (<65') and
 - fixed gear licence holders (gillnets, traps and bar seines).
- Limited entry provision applies for both fixed and mobile gear



Licence - Commercial

- In 2007, a total of 696 fish licences were issued to enterprises in 4R to harvest herring on a commercial basis.
 - 676 fixed gear enterprises
 - All three gear types (gillnets, traps and bar seines) are included under a single fixed gear licence
 - 15 small seiners (<65')
 - 5 large seiners (>65')
 - *Note: 6 New Brunswick based large seiners also have access to Herring in 4R*



Licences - Bait

- Herring bait licences form part of a generic bait licence that includes winter flounder.
- Licences are issued to fish harvesters who require bait for other high value commercial fisheries (e.g. lobster, crab, etc.).
 - Both commercial and non-commercial herring licence holders are able to access herring for bait
 - Seasons are specified through a condition of licence (i.e. separate from commercial fishing season)
 - Bait allocations have not been identified as a component of the TAC for 4R herring
- There were 753 bait licences issued in 2007.



Licences - Participation

- The purse seine fleets have had consistently high participation levels over last five years
 - 80% or more
 - 4 large seiner and 14 small seiners active in 2007
- Fixed gear participation rates considerably less and more variable from year-to-year
 - Ranged from 41 to 151 in last five years
 - Only 41 of 676 (< 6%) active in 2007
- Limited market opportunities for fixed gear licence holders has limited participation



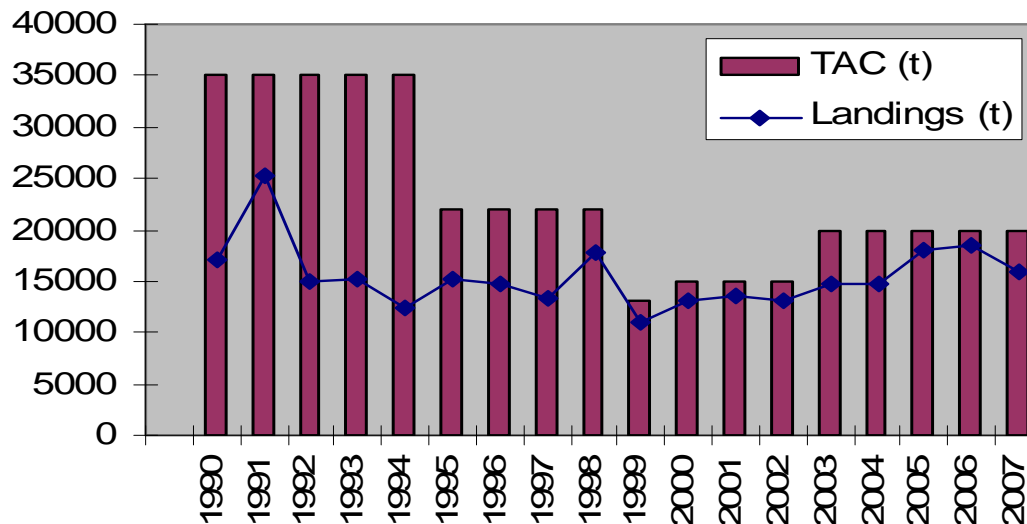
Timeframe of the Fishery

- Seasons differ for each fleet and quota area.
- Vary from year to year depending on weather and sea ice conditions; normally starts in late April to early May and continues on through to December.
 - Large seiner fleet: early April / mid May to mid December.
 - Small seiner fleet: mid May until the end of the year.
 - Fixed gear (HFA 14): early May to mid October.
 - Fixed gear (HFA 13): early June until mid to late October.
- Over past 5 years majority of landings (75-85%) have been during the fall - i.e. September – December



Landings – General Observations

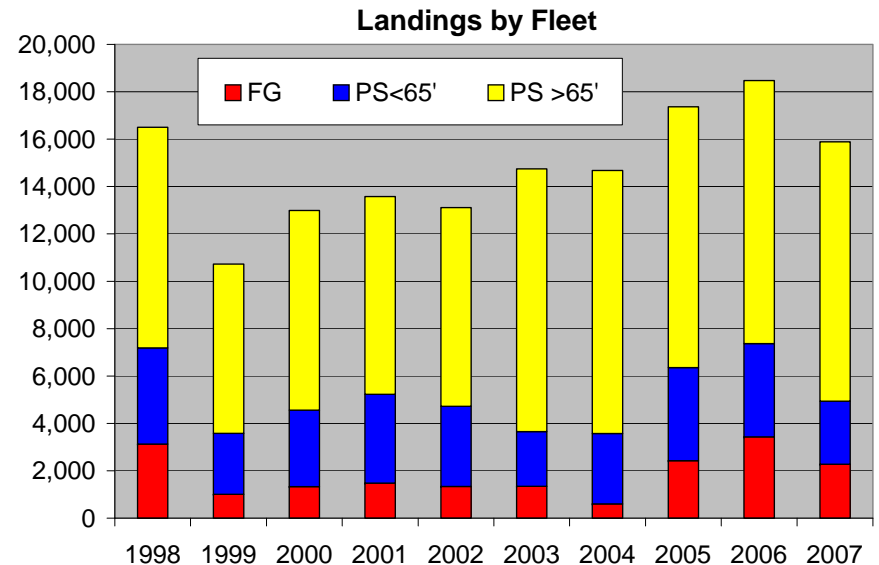
- Landings peaked in 1991 at slightly above 25,000 t
- Lowest value recorded was in 1999 at about 11,000t.
- During the most recent three-year period (2005-07), landings averaged ~ 17,500t – almost 90% of the available quota.





Landings – Fleet Contributions

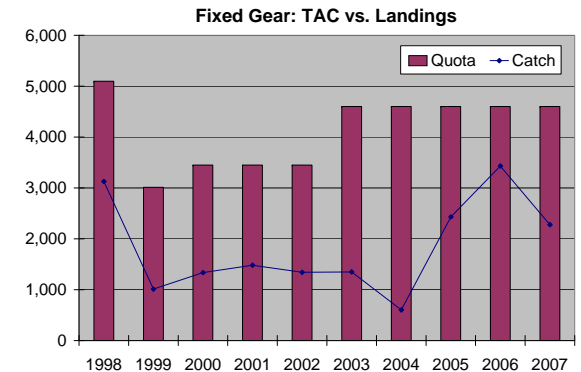
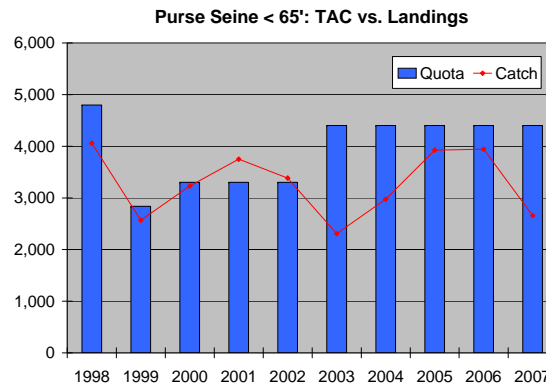
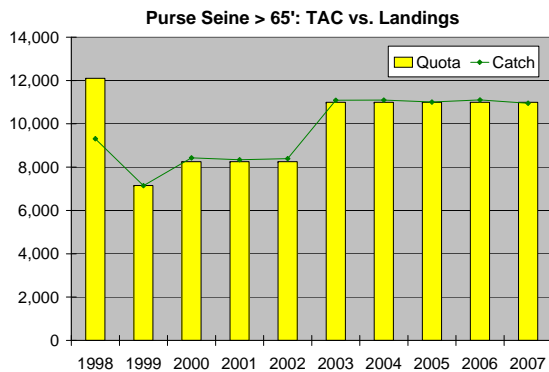
- Purse seines: major contributor of landings
 - Landed in excess of 80% of total catch
 - Reached 99% in '91 and 95% in '05
- Fixed gear: average has ranged from 5-20% of the total catch





Landings – Past 10 Years

- Large seiners: landed entire allocation annually since 1999.
- Small seiners: more variable; average 85% of quotas taken
- Fixed gear: highly variable; average 43% of quotas taken; above average during most recent three year period (~60%)





Landings - 2007

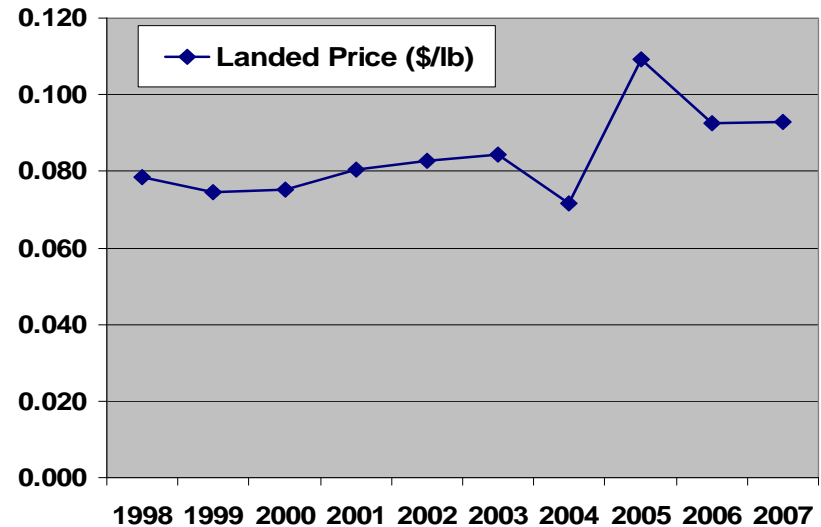
- The 2007 fishery:
 - Limited activity in Spring
 - 98% of all landings August – December
 - Total landings: 15,589t
 - Down almost 15% from previous year
 - Limited markets restricted activity/ landings for small purse seiners and fixed gear fleet.





Landed Value

- Over the last ten years, the average landed price per pound has generally ranged from 7-11¢ per pound.
- In 2007, the average price paid to fish harvesters was about 9¢ per pound.
 - Price ranged from 5-15¢ per pound
 - Approximate landed value: \$3.2M





Management Regime – Process/ Structure

- The Department holds consultations, annually with herring industry representatives in an advisory forum known as the 4R Pelagics Co-management Committee.
 - Main forum for representatives of industry, governments and other interested groups to provide input into the development of management measures for the herring fishery
 - Most recent meeting was held in April 2007.



Management Regime – The Fishery

- The 4R herring fishery is managed on the basis of a single TAC that includes both spring and autumn spawners.
 - Management measures based on conservation concerns are implemented to limit the catch of stock components within the established TAC

Fleet/ Gear Sector	Allocation
Large Seiners	11,000t (55%)
Small Seiners	4,400t (22%)
Fixed Gear	4,600t (23%)
<i>Total</i>	<i>20,000t</i>





Management Regime

- The large purse seine fishery is administered under an Individual Transferable Quota (ITQ) regime
- The small purse seine fishery is administered under an Individual Quota (IQ) regime.
- The fixed gear fishery is fully competitive with one overall quota for the entire 4R management area.
- Access (subject to closed areas and times):
 - Purse seiner fleets (large seiners and small seiners) have access to all fishing areas within Division 4R.
 - Fixed gear licence holders have access to their Fishing Area of residence or Area historically fished (either Fishing Area 13 or 14).



Regulatory Measures

- In accordance with the Atlantic Fishery Regulations (AFR), no person shall fish for, sell, or have in their possession any herring that is less than 26.5 cm fork length (10.5 inches);
 - Exception of up to 10% of small herring (by count) per fishing trip when the taking of small herring is incidental to the capture of larger herring
 - Minimum size provision does not apply to herring caught by gillnets





Regulatory Measures

- Herring may be retained as a by-catch in a directed mackerel fishery when the quantity of herring is no more than 10% of the weight of mackerel caught and retained during a fishing trip.
 - The taking of herring as a by-catch in quantities greater than 10% is permitted to a person who is licenced for herring, with a gear, in an area and at a time that is permitted for the capture of herring. In such cases, herring by-catch will be deducted from the fleet or individual quota.



Regulatory Measures

- The maximum amount of fixed gear permitted to be fished at any one time by a licence holder:
 - ten gillnets (maximum of 500 fathoms in total),
 - one bar seine, and
 - one trap (or two traps in lieu of the bar seine)
- Monofilament netting material is prohibited in trapnet leaders and gillnets.
- The use of trap net leaders with a mesh size greater than 2 inches and less than 7 inches is prohibited.





Control and Monitoring

- Detailed **logbook** records of catch and fishing activity required for:
 - Herring fishers operating vessels \geq 35 feet length overall (LOA)
 - Fixed gear licence holders in Herring Fishing Area 14
 - Bait fishers in Herring Fishing Area 13
- Mobile gear licence holders will be required to carry an **at-sea observer** intermittently throughout the fishery at the request of the Department.
- Commercial herring landings are subject to a **dockside monitoring program**.
 - Requirement was introduced in the fall of 2007 for fixed gear licence holders, previously limited to purse seine licence holders only



Management Challenges & Issues

- Limited Science Advice
- By-catch issues (e.g. small herring; salmon; groundfish; etc.)
- Reporting of catches in bait fisheries
- Availability of markets
- Gear type conflicts (purse seine & fixed gear)
- Divergence within fixed gear fleet – two tiers