

On behalf of the Glace Bay Herring Association I am putting forth our view points and data in regards to the Herring Fishery for the area known as 4VN. This area runs from Cape North to Cape Forchu and is believed to be a mix of herring stocks from 4T, 4W, 4VN and Brasdor Lakes. I have put together information on landings and acoustic surveys done in the past 9-10 years and have submitted them to the Board. Our concerns in this fishery are of great concern especially in the past 4 years. From 1997-2001 landings in our area have been moderate with about 1500 tonnes landed in each of those years. In 2002 we had a major increase in landings of about 3100 tonnes bringing in an estimated value of almost 1 million dollars into our industry and our small communities. Our fishery runs from September to mid October. Since then our fishery has been in a steady decline in which last year we had no fishery at all. Biomass estimates were higher from 2002 up until 2005 but landings were continuing to decline. We believe this to be a good sign that we were seeing a lot of smaller fish in our acoustic surveys and with us using a larger mesh size we were concentrating on fish between 5-7 years old. But that doesn't seem to be the case because our latest surveys done in the past 3 years have dropped considerably with surveys showing just 500 tonnes down from 31,500 tonnes in 2003. We have 3 major spawning areas in 4VN, red grounds where most of the herring is congregated and caught as well as Glace Bay and The Big Shoal. The Big Shoal has seen no migration in the past 4 years. Our fishery has gone from a bait fishery in the late 90's to a roe fishery up until 2006 and last year back to a bait fishery again. We do not seem to understand why the herring no longer return to an area they have spawned in for over a decade. It has had a large impact on our livelihoods. Our

management group and initiative have been in place and are followed throughout in our fishery. We have been working with Department Of Fisheries and The Science Department to try and understand these circumstances and to try to come up with answers as to why there is no herring migrating in our areas. This is a very serious matter affecting our fishery and our community. We would encourage any input the Board may have.....Thank you

Ron Hart