



The socio-economics of Atlantic mackerel bait use in the Nova Scotia lobster and snow crab fisheries

The Fishermen and Scientists Research Society (FSRS) invites you to participate in a project focused on the use of Atlantic mackerel as bait within the lobster and snow crab fisheries. The study is aimed at collecting information that will help inform fisheries management personnel on the factors that influence bait type within the lobster and snow crab fisheries, and how much Atlantic mackerel is used as bait within those fisheries. This project is supported by WWF-Canada.

For this project we are asking people who use Atlantic mackerel as bait in their lobster or snow crab fishing practices to participate in a small focus group that will answer questions focusing on five main topics: What are you using for bait? Why do you choose that species for bait? Where are you getting it from? How much do you use? What are your concerns about bait in the lobster and snow crab fisheries?

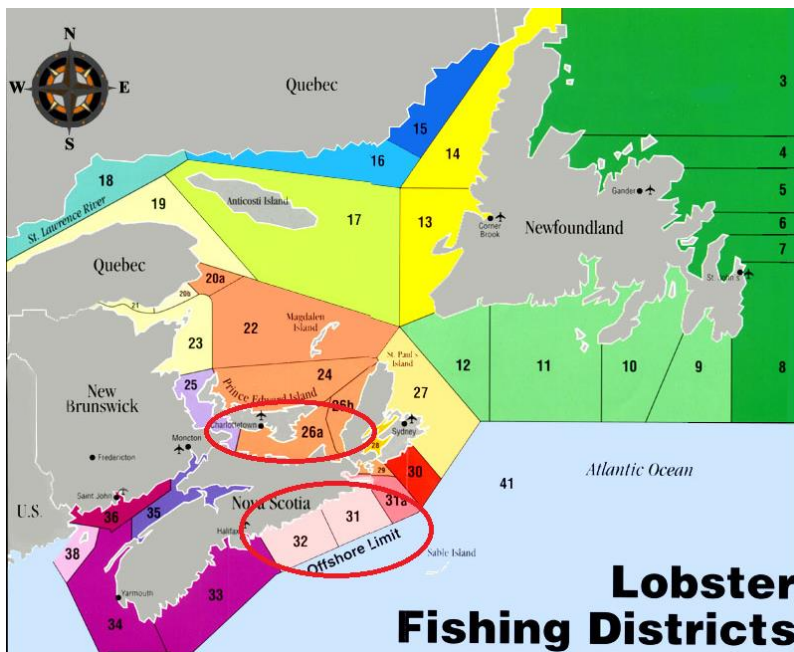


Figure 1 Focus Group Study Area

Focus Group Geographical Distribution:

This project will be covering the Eastern shore of Nova Scotia, as well as LFA 26a along the North shore (Figure 1). Areas are shown in red circles.

Focus Group Size: Approximately 3-6 participants in each focus group.

Focus Group Locations: Focus groups will be held at community halls and/or other places of convenience for participants.

Focus Groups Dates/Times: Dates and times for the focus groups will be set based on participants availability (e.g. slow periods in fishing seasons or following other meetings or events).

If you are interested in contributing to this project or if you feel you know of any fisheries experts who would like to participate, please contact our Research Assistant, Jessica MacDonald. The FSRS is a non-biased third-party group and all information gathered is treated confidentially.

Jessica MacDonald

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Thank you for your time,

Fishermen and Scientists Research Society

1. How long have you been fishing lobster or snow crab?	
2. What generation of fishermen are you?	
3. Would you identify as a full or part-time fisherman?	
4. What is your home port?	
5. In your lobster or snow crab fishery, what species do you most commonly use for bait?	
6. Do you fish recreationally for Atlantic mackerel?	
7. Do you have an active bait licence?	
If yes:	If no:
8. What species do you most often target?	N/A
9. How much of your bait for your lobster or snow crab fishery is caught using that licence?	
10. What gear type is used to fish that species?	
11. In your lobster or snow crab fishery, how often do you use Atlantic mackerel for bait?	
If they use it:	If they don't use it:
13. What is the source of your Atlantic mackerel?	12. Why don't you use Atlantic mackerel?
14. Why do you choose to buy it from that source?	N/A
15. Do you know what gear type your source uses to fish the Atlantic mackerel?	
16. Is the Atlantic mackerel fresh, frozen, preserved, or a combination of all throughout the season?	
17. What is the size of the Atlantic mackerel being used?	
18. How many traps do you have?	
19. How often do you check your traps?	
20. What is the average number of traps checked each trip?	
21. Do you rebait the traps each time you check them?	
22. How much Atlantic mackerel is used as as bait per trap?	
23. What drives your decision regarding the type of bait you use?	
24. What drives your decision regarding the quantity of bait you use?	
25. Do you have any concerns regarding the availability and price of bait?	
26. In your experience, do you observe a connection between Atlantic mackerel landings and bait availability?	
27. Would you be willing to try using alternative/manufactured bait if Atlantic mackerel availability were low?	
28. Do you support the use of electronic logs (ELOGS) in your fishery?	
29. Is there anyone else you recommend consulting with regards to this study?	
30. Is there anything else you would like to add?	