

FFAW Perspectives on Oil Spill Prevention and Response in Newfoundland and Labrador

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C-NLOPB Spill Forum
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FFAW | UNIFOR
Fish, Food & Allied Workers

Fish Food and Allied Workers

- **Founded in 1971**
- **Represent workers in fisheries, shipping, metal fabrication, brewing, security, hospitality and the oil industry**
- **12,000 members living in over 600 communities in NL**
- **Affiliated with Unifor, Canada's largest private sector union**



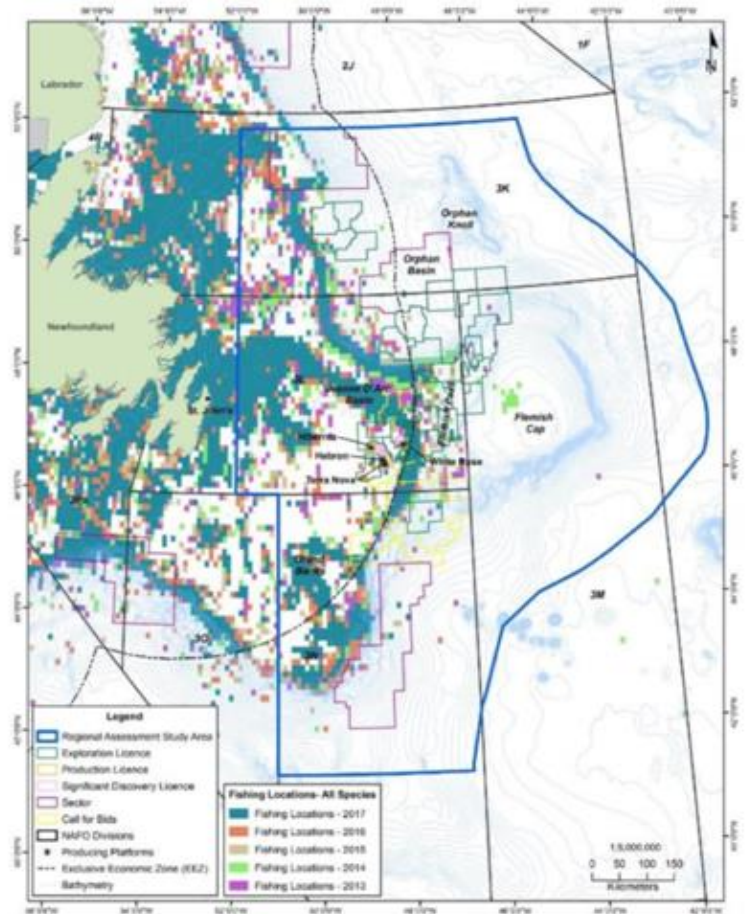
FFAW - Fishery Sector

- **Collective Bargaining**
- **Policy and Regulatory Advocacy***
- **In-house Science Department**
- **Develop harvesting plans together with government agencies**
- **Support better economic returns to a sustainable fishing industry**

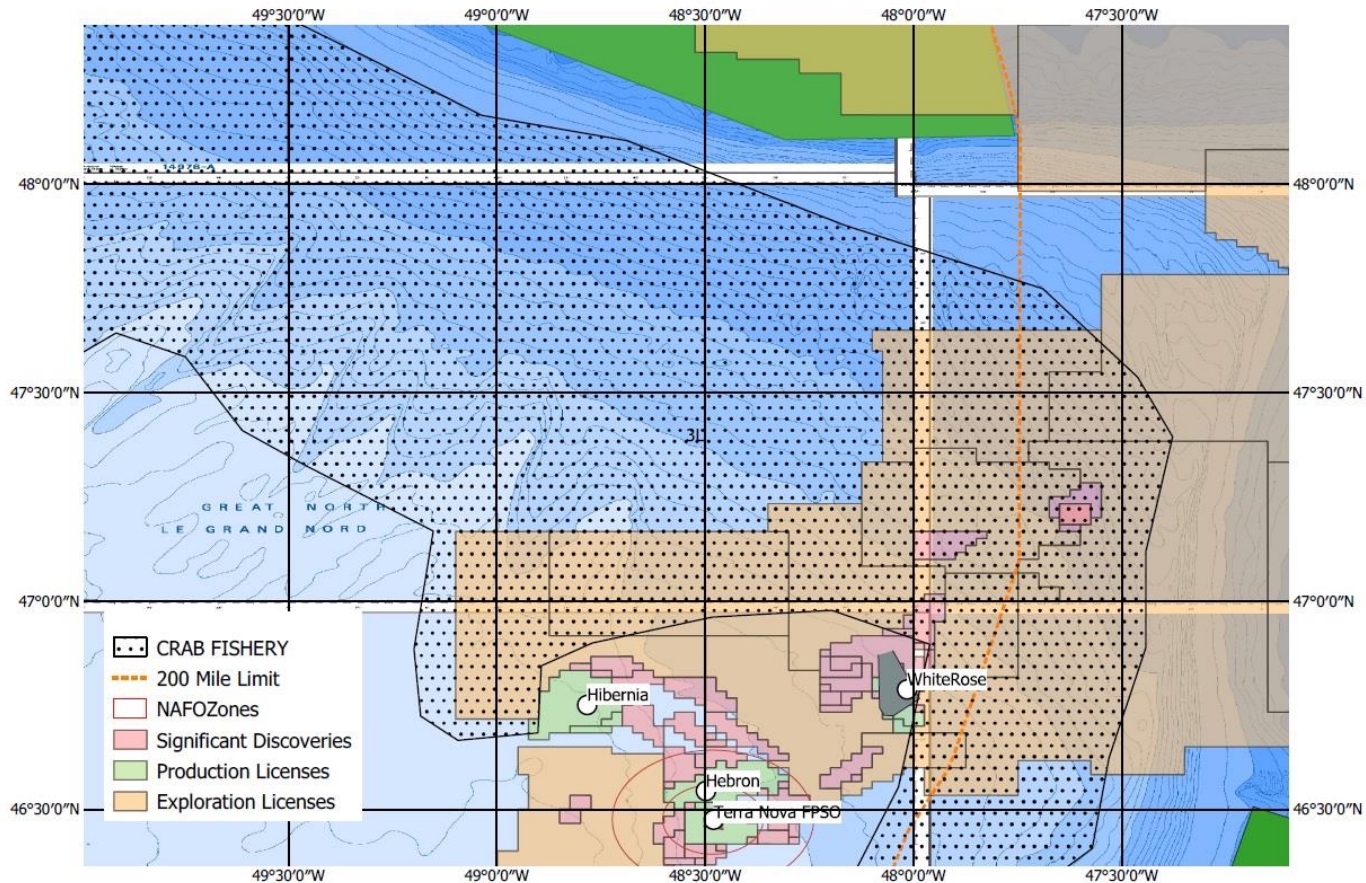


FFAW – Fishery Sector

- Owner-operator fleet
- 3500 small businesses (boats) on the water
- Fish near shore to edge of continental shelf
- Harvest 40+ different species
- Over \$500 million in landed product annually



FFAW – Fishery Sector



Fishing and petroleum industries operate in same area on Grand Banks

FFAW - Industrial Sector

- **Collective Bargaining**
- **Represent workers in 25 fish processing plants in NL**
- **Hotels, tankers, tug boats, breweries, metal fabrication**
- **Policy and Regulatory Advocacy (e.g. workplace safety)**
- **Support good (rural) jobs for skilled workforce**



Oil & Gas Expansion and the Fishery

- **Industry Liaison since 2006**
- **Exploration**
 - **Seismic Activity & Drilling**
 - **Cumulative Effects**
 - **Rig Tows/Moves**
 - **Scheduled Land Tenure System**
 - **Access to Fishing Grounds**
- **Marine Refuges/MPAs**
 - **Fishing Prohibited, Oil & Gas Permitted to Explore**
- **Risk of an Oil Spill***
 - **Recent spills in NL waters**



NL Seafood Industry

\$1.4 BILLION
MARKET VALUE

400
COMMUNITIES

15,800 
EMPLOYED

90 ACTIVE
PLANTS

EXPORTED TO
40+
COUNTRIES

115,000
TONNES
OF FINISHED
PRODUCT

OF FISHERIES (BY VALUE)
ARE CERTIFIED TO
THE MSC STANDARD

OVER 75%




SNOW CRAB



MACKEREL



LOBSTER



HERRING



COD

CAPELIN

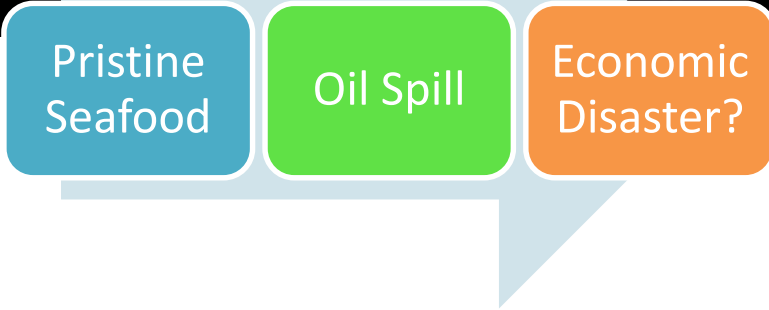


NORTHERN SHRIMP



TURBOT
(GREENLAND HALIBUT)





SNOW CRAB



MACKEREL



LOBSTER



HERRING



COD

CAPELIN



NORTHERN SHRIMP



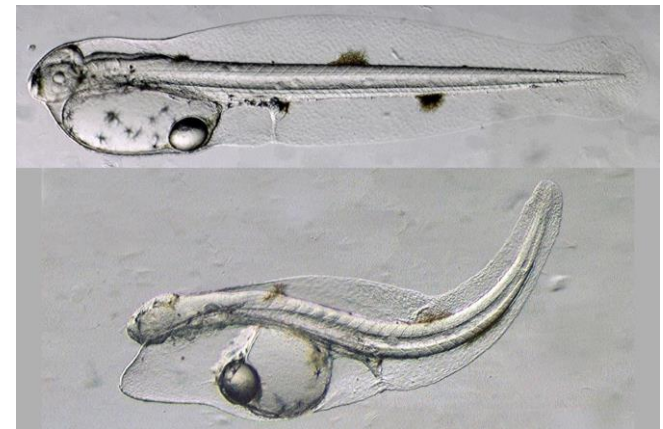
TURBOT
(GREENLAND HALIBUT)



Exxon Valdez (Alaska), Prestige (Spain), Deepwater Horizon (Gulf of Mexico) Spills

Lessons Learned:

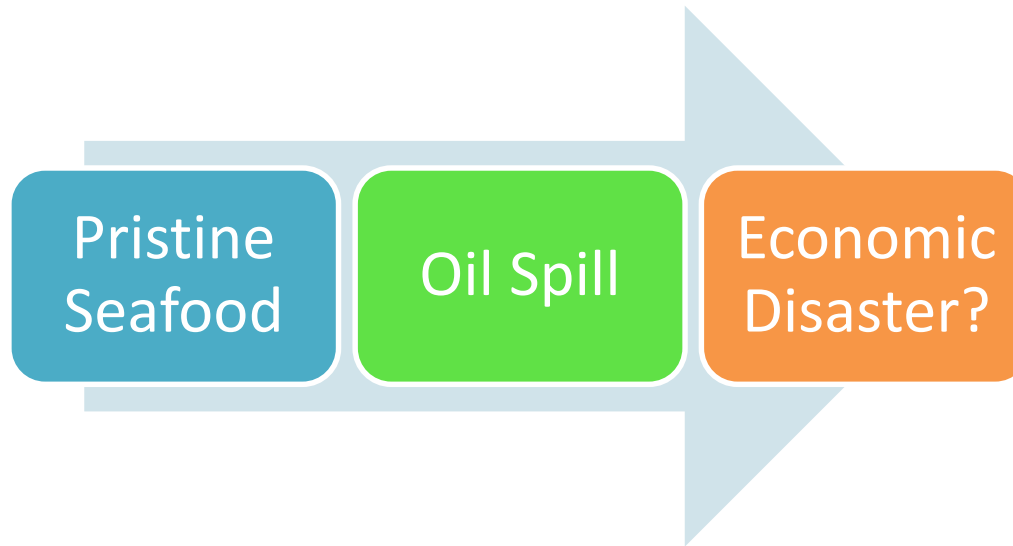
- Fishing industry majorly impacted
- Liability/Compensation issues
- Fishing industry involved in response
 - E.g., Vessels of Opportunity program
- Education and awareness of oil spill preparedness and response needed
- Need for baseline studies regarding “tainting” of commercial fish species
- Long-term data before a spill is also critical for assessing disaster response, damage and recovery
- Research needed in the use of dispersants on fish and fish habitat



Oil Spill Prevention and Response 2021

- **Recent oil and gas incidents in NL waters:**
 - 28,000 L of drilling muds – April 2018
 - 12,000 L + 2200 L spills – July/August 2019
 - 250,000 L – November 2019
 - 1098 L of antimicrobial agents – June 2020
 - Produced water sheen – June 2020
 - Sheen following disconnect – June 2020
- **Our marine ecosystem is vulnerable to human error, malfunctioning equipment, etc.**
- **Have we advanced our understanding and awareness of oil spill preparedness and response since the major global spills and/or local incidents?**

Oil Spill Prevention and Response 2021



- **We need to provide relevant information to our membership.**
- **This information needs to be readily available and/or accessible in a crisis situation.**
- **\$1.4 billion industry - livelihoods are at stake!**

Oil Spill Prevention and Response 2021

- **More action & clarity on compensation processes**
 - Compensation plans need review regarding process and in the context of the valuation of today's fishery
- **More transparency on assessment of impacts to fish stocks and the marine environment**
- **More understanding of spill response**
 - Gov't agency/dept roles and responsibilities
 - More research on environmental impact of dispersants
 - Education and awareness of oil spill preparedness and response is STILL needed
- **Opportunities for fishing industry to be more engaged and informed**



THANK YOU



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