

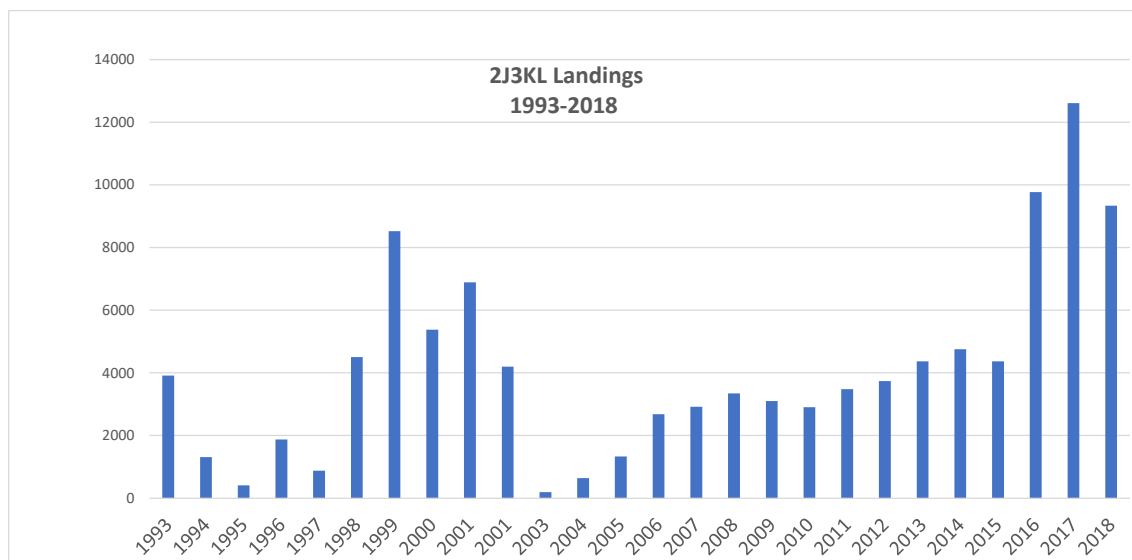
2J3KL Cod Proposal

April 11, 2019

Introduction

The NL Groundfish Industry Development Council (GIDC) is a not-for-profit association comprised of inshore fishers and processors with the mandate to coordinate the transition from shellfish to ground fish opportunities with particular emphasis on Atlantic Cod. Since its inception, the GIDC has presented proposals to DFO regarding management of the 2J3KL cod stewardship fishery. DFO has implemented the management framework proposed by the GIDC since 2016.

The stewardship fishery for 2J3KL cod began for inshore fixed gear fleets in 2006 and continued in 2007-2018. Commercial fishers were originally permitted a fixed annual allowance of cod per license holder during the 2006-2015 period. The annual allowances were generally harvested during a 3-week period in early autumn. Since 2016, the Stewardship Fishery has been managed using variable weekly catch limits and season were extended, ranging from 13 to 21 weeks. The 2J3KL cod landings from 1993 to 2018 are presented below.



Management measures 2016-2018

The annual management plans eventually implemented were developed with considerable discussion between DFO and the GIDC.

2016 Management

- 19 week Season
 - Compared to 3-4 week season in previous stewardship fisheries
- August 15-December 16
- Weekly Limits
 - 2000 lb/week Aug 15-Sept 4
 - 3000 lb/week Sept 5-Dec 16
- No homeport restrictions
- Fishing inside 12 miles
- Gear Restrictions

2017 management

- 21 week fishery
- Season: June 12-30, August 1-November 30
- Weekly limits:

Dates	Weekly Limit (Lbs)	
	2J	3KL
June 12-30	4000	4000
July	-	-
August	4000	2000
September	5000	3000
October	5000	5000
November	5000	5000

- No homeport restrictions
- Fishing permitted outside 12 Miles
- Autumn double weekly limit option
- Gear restrictions

2018 management Plan

- Announced July 12, 2018
- 9,500 t /11 week fishery
- Weekly Limits:

	2J	3K
August	3500	2000
September	3500	3000
October	3500	3500
November		3500

- Seasons: 2J - August 5-October 20, 3KL - Aug 15-Sept 15, Sept 23-Nov 3
- Autumn double weekly limit option
- DFO to make adjustments so catch does not exceed 9500 t

2018 DFO In-season Changes

September 5

- September closure 2 weeks (Sept 9-22) instead of 1 week (Sept 16-22)

September 18

- Weekly limit for week of Sept 23-29 reduced to 2,000 lbs from 3000 lbs

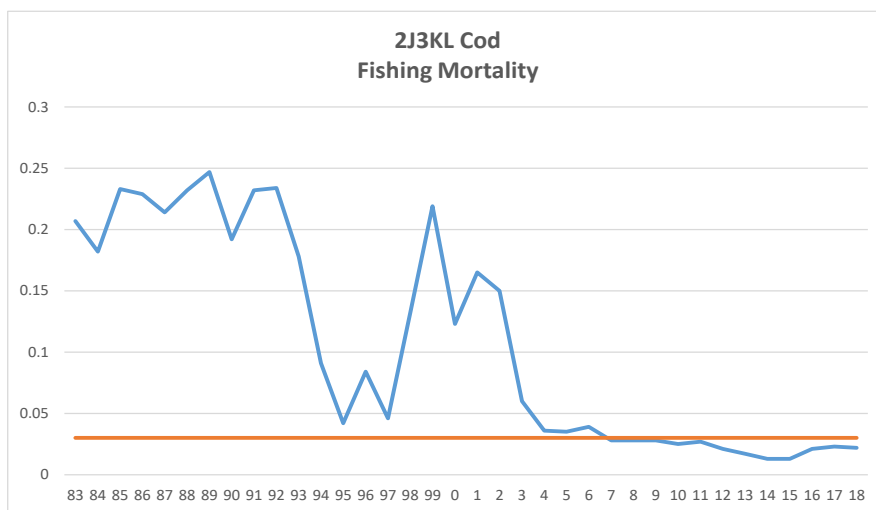
October 9

- Fishery closed Thursday, Oct 11 to everybody except the fall fishery option

October 16

- Fishery to reopen Sunday, Oct 21
- Weekly limits – 1750 lbs (full season fishers)
- 3500 lbs (fall only fishers)
- Fishery to close on October 27, 2018

Note: NL-GIDC 2J3KL proposals in all years result in low fishing mortality to promote stock growth continued.



2019 Proposal

General:

- Weekly limits similar to 2018
- Avoid the mid-season shut downs
- Extend the season similar to 2016 or 2017
- Autumn fishery double limits continue to apply
- Split in summer/autumn with 75/25 similar to 2018
- Gear limits similar to 2018 (some revisions required for the double limit fishery in autumn)
- Monitoring and areas fished similar to last year
 - logbooks, DMP, observers
 - harvesters can fish outside their bays and outside 12 miles from land
- The stewardship fishery will also include the harvest from the quality project

Recommendation:

The NL-GIDC recommends total removals consistent with the DFO catch projections with a 30% increase (total removals of 17,936 t).

- The probability that SSB will continue to grow with the one-year projection.
 - 62% with status quo (13,797 t)
 - 61% with 15% increase (15,867 t)
 - 59% with 30% increase (17,936 t)
- Virtually no difference in these probabilities.

Fishing Mortality for Projections:

- The projected F's at these levels for 2019
 - with status quo $F=0.022$
 - with 15% increase $F=0.026$
 - with 30% increase $F=0.0295$
- These F's are Low and consistent with the NL-GIDC recommendations in previous years of maintaining a low fishing mortality.
- The F's from 2007-2018 are all less than 0.030