

Northern Shrimp and the Inshore Fleet

The inshore fleet, primarily vessels less than 65 feet, land their entire catch of Northern Shrimp to plants in Newfoundland and Labrador for processing. Meanwhile the offshore vessels can land at a variety of ports – Canadian and international – and next to none of the product sees any further work in Newfoundland and Labrador other than offloading and shipping.

The inshore fleet was introduced to the Northern Shrimp Fishery in 1997, in consideration of the challenging times of the groundfish fisheries and the positive outlook for Northern Shrimp. In 2009 when the quota allocation to the inshore fleet was at its greatest, it was 77,009MT or 169.4 million lbs.

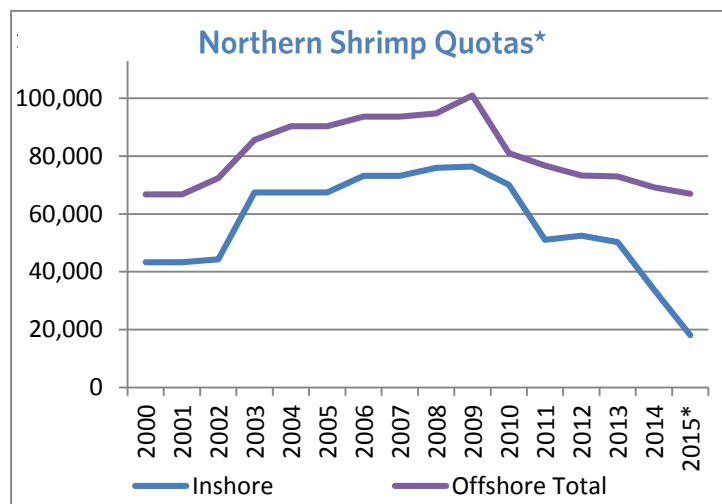
The peak of 169.4 million lbs is a far cry from the potential 2015 inshore quota of less than 40 million lbs (18,000MT). This cut has to be contrasted against the quota cut for vessels greater than 100 foot (factory freezer trawlers), where the quota had a peak of 69,505MT and in 2015 is expected to continue to be above 55,600MT.

While there are significant declines in the resource available to the inshore fleet sector, the quota for the offshore fleet and royalty charters remains strong. It is important to note that the royalty charter quotas are also being harvested by the offshore factory freezer vessels.

Looking at how the quota allocations have been changing in recent years, it is evident that the vast majority of any reduction in quota has hit the inshore fleet. This is in direct opposition to the well-established principle of adjacency and consideration towards the dependency of coastal communities on fish resources.

The problem with not giving attention to adjacency is that the quota is being cut for those who generate employment on land. Combined, the inshore Northern Shrimp sector (harvesting and processing) employs approximately 3,000 people in rural Newfoundland and Labrador. Using factors established in other studies this would imply that this sector generates additional 3,900 jobs throughout Newfoundland and Labrador.¹

On the other hand the offshore fleet consists of 10 vessels that employ approximately 400 to 500 people. Although the resource is harvested in areas adjacent to Newfoundland and Labrador, these offshore vessels can offload in any port of their choosing – at times landing in Greenland.



¹ Report available from: https://novascotia.ca/econ/docs/2005_Ocean_Sector_Study_NS.pdf

* There are two sets of quotas that are available for the offshore vessels to harvest. For this illustration purpose the direct offshore quota and special allocations are combined. Special allocations can only be harvested by the greater than 100 foot vessels under charter agreements – often referred to as Royalty Charters.