



Maritimes Science Branch
1 Challenger Drive
P.O. Box 1006
Dartmouth, NS B2Y 4A2

May 7th, 2025

Brynhildur Benediktsdóttir
Executive Secretary
NAFO
P.O. Box 638
Dartmouth, NS B2Y 3Y9

Dear Ms. Benediktsdóttir:

With reference to Article 4, Part 3 of NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures please be advised that the Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans is collaborating with the Atlantic halibut fishing industry to conduct the Industry-DFO Halibut Longline Survey, including stations considered stratified random and biological sampling (formerly ‘commercial index’), in NAFO Divisions 3NOP4VWX+5Z between May 22nd and July 22nd of 2025. Stations will occur both in the Canadian Zone and the NAFO Regulatory Area (NRA) of 3NO.

The survey stations in the NRA will be fished with bottom longline gear composed of floating polypropylene, with weights of 1-4 lbs every 10 hooks. Hooks will be circle 15 and gangion length will be 28-36 inches from the mainline to the eye of the hook, with spacing of 15 ft (4.6 m) to 18 ft (5.5 m) between gangions. All survey stations (stratified random and biological sampling) within the NRA will be completed between May 22nd and July 22nd, 2025 with DFO certified At-Sea Fisheries Observers collecting data. The detailed information regarding the commercial fishing vessels that are collaborating in this research follows:

Vessel Name:	<i>F/V Southerly Sacrifice</i>	<i>F/V Sou'west Titan</i>
Length of Boat:	14.04 m	14.73 m
Beam:	7.91 m	9.41 m
Depth:	3.16 m	3.04 m
Call Sign:	VAH2575 (Victor Alfa Hotel 2575)	MMSI: 316055389
Port of Registration:	Sambro, NS	Yarmouth, NS
Registration Number:	108924	109086

The time-series of data from the stratified random survey was used in the 2021-2022 framework assessment of the Scotian Shelf and Southern Grand Bank Atlantic halibut and continues to be used annually to provide science advice on stock status.

The Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans would like to thank you for your consideration.



Fisheries and Oceans
Canada

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Regards,

Francine Desharnais
Regional Director, Science
Bedford Institute of Oceanography
Fisheries and Oceans Canada

cc J. Saunders
N. Pond
D. Moreau
C. Pomerleau
D. Harper