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New Strata for Groundfish Surveys in the Gulf of St. Lawrence,

NAFO Divisions 4RST

by

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As outlined in the report from STADREC (NAFO SCR Doc. 89/17, Appendix II), six new strata have been added to the existing sampling scheme in 1987. Two of these new strata cover the 30 to 50 fathoms range in Division 4R (835, 836) while the remaining four are located in the St. Lawrence estuary at depths over 100 fathoms (411, 412, 413, 414). (Fig. 1, Table 1). Sampling of the strata 835, 836 is opportunistic, as ice cover may limit sampling during the January survey and that the presence of fixed gears hamper coverage during the summer survey. The new strata in NAFO Division 4T (St. Lawrence estuary) have been sampled since August 1987 but are not surveyed in January because of ice cover.

All sampling units (over 10,000) of the stratification scheme of the Gulf of St. Lawrence were digitized using nautical charts. The resulting data files are available from the authors.

Table 1: Description of new strata in the Gulf of St. Lawrence (NAFO Divisions 4RST).

STRATUM	NAFO Division	Depth Range (Fathoms)	Number of Trawlable Units	Area (K <sub>a</sub> )
835	4R	30-50	150	1,948
836	4R	30-50	180	2,228
411	4T	150-200	168	1,859
412	4T	100-150	114	1,284
413	4T	150-200	66	732
414	4T	100-150	36	389

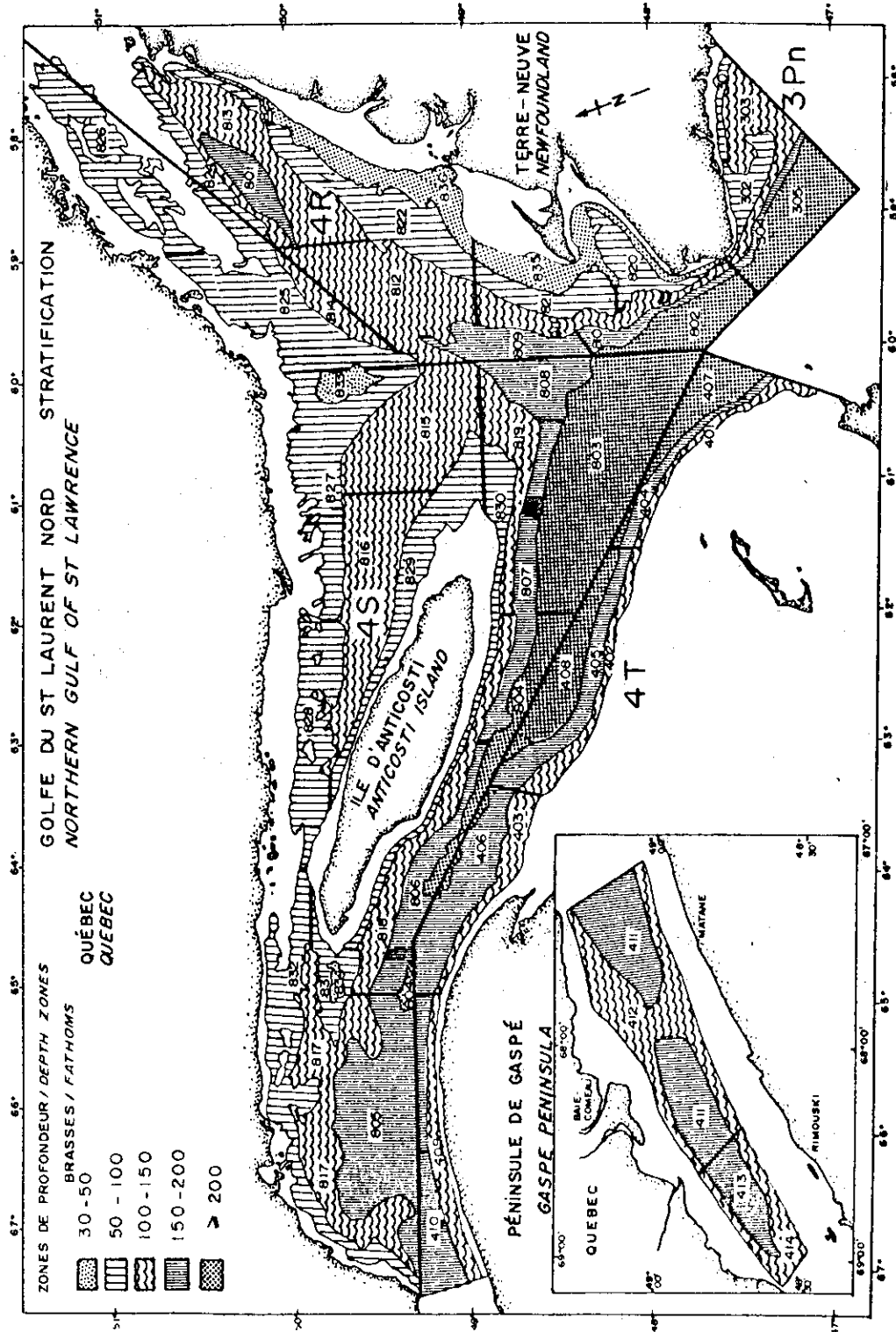


Figure 1: Sampling scheme for groundfish surveys in NAFO Divisions 4RST, and Subdivision 3Pn.