



**Seafood Producers Association of Nova Scotia**  
**Association des Producteurs de Fruits de Mer de la Nouvelle Ecosse**

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Regional Assessment of Offshore Wind Development in Nova Scotia  
Impact Assessment Agency of Canada  
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Please accept the following supplemental information relating to the scallop fishery as it relates to the PFDA's on Sable/Western Bank and Middle Bank. Scallop fishing has traditionally occurred on these banks in relatively unique and predictable areas suitable for scallop development. While the offshore scallop fleet has not focused on these banks in significant terms in recent years for multiple reasons (namely decreased catch per unit effort on other banks during this time period combined with fewer full recruits in recent surveys), they are nonetheless important banks for this fishery. What's more, the time series in DFO's Marine Planning Atlas may not provide a full picture of the importance of these banks and the parts of the banks that have received significant commercial focus.

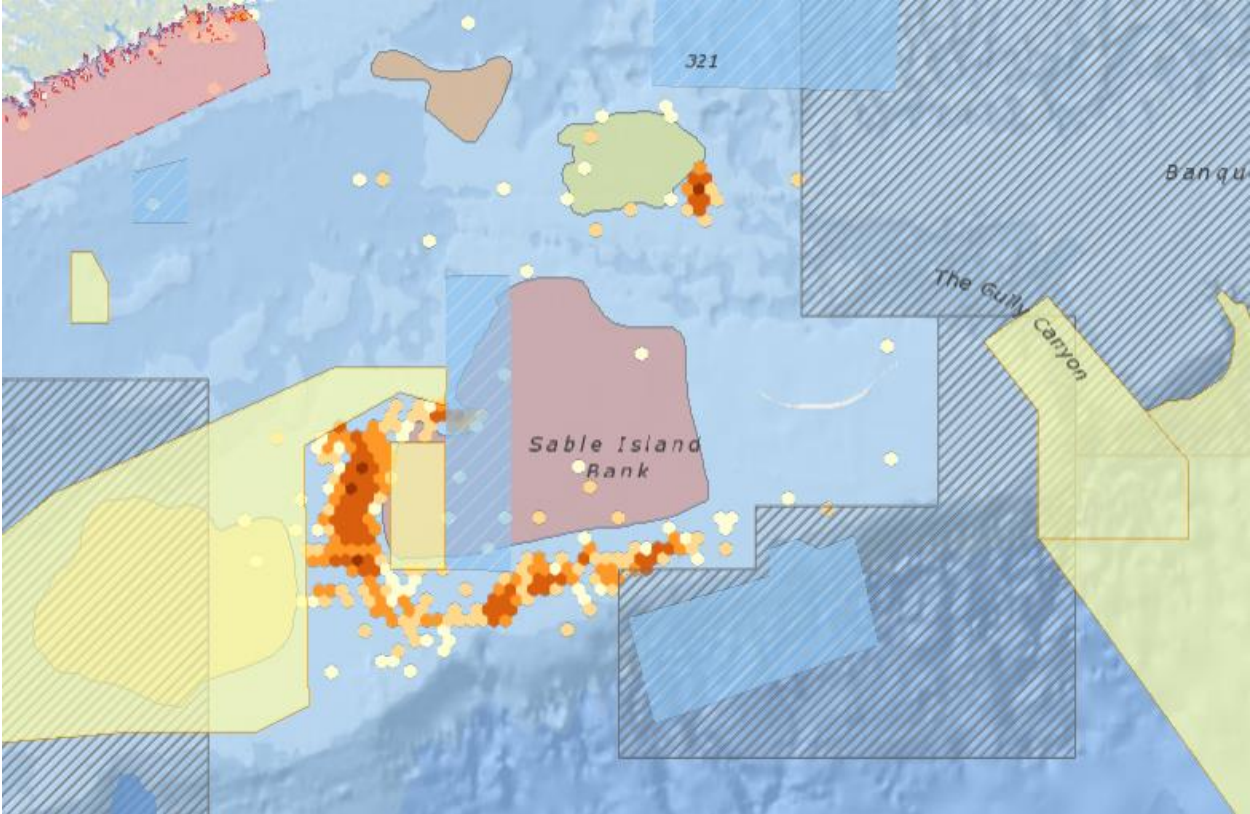
For instance, the following table summarizes the "Total Allowable Catch" and Landings for these banks over a longer time series. From 1990 to 1997 the "Eastern Scotian Shelf" comprised Sable/Western Bank, Middle Bank and Banquereau Bank, but after 1997 the Eastern Scotia Shelf did not include Banquereau. In either case, the landings for these areas have been much higher in previous years before going into a period of relatively low-commercial abundance featured in the Marine Planning Atlas:

<b>Year</b>	<b>TAC</b>	<b>Landings</b>
1990	-	434
1991	-	389
1992	-	524
1993	-	250
1994	150	116
1995	150	150
1996	175	175
1997	175	174
1998	355	265
1999	350	277
2000	200	195

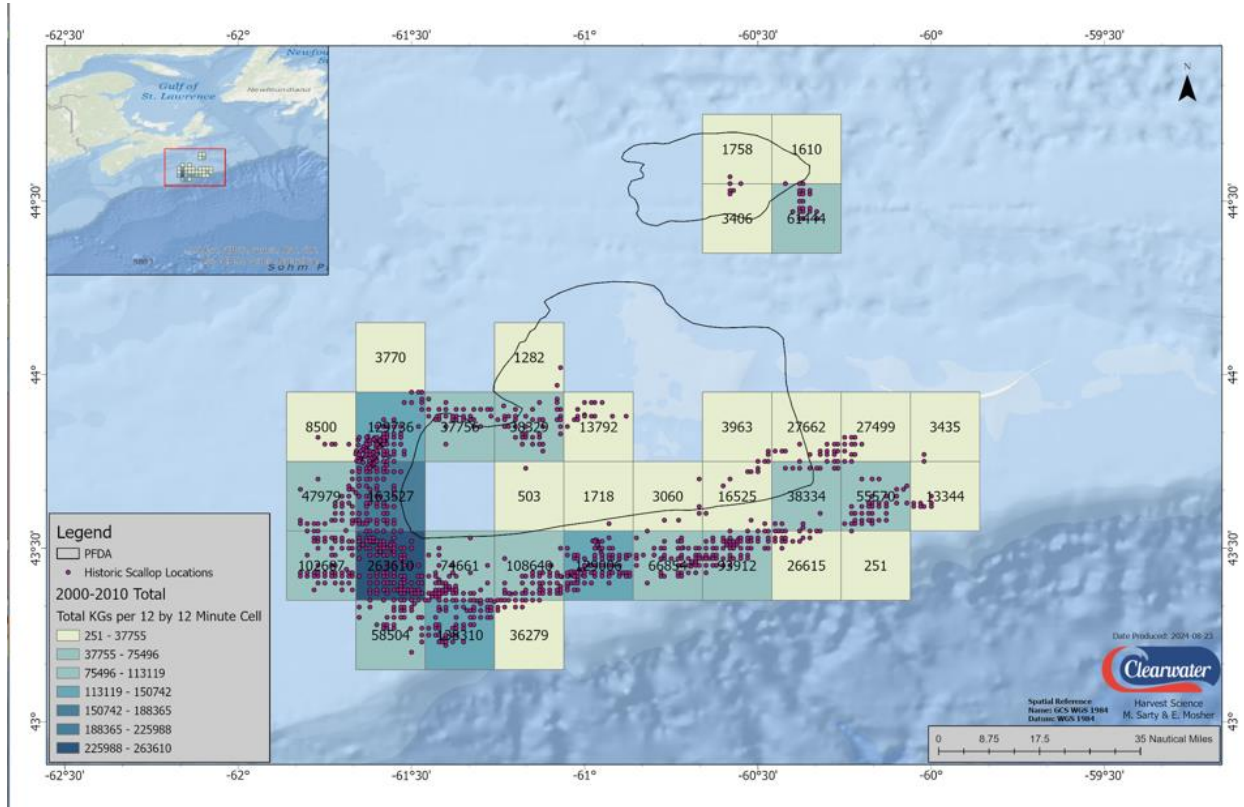
2001	200	199
2002	250	178
2003	250	229
2004	250	246
2005	250	235
2006	150	140
2007	150	150
2008	125	87
2009	75	33
2010	75	31

These harvests would be worth a considerable amount today, especially given the added value of frozen at sea product and vertical integration employed by many operators.

As we have discussed, there have been difficulties in getting commercial fisheries data into a useable format for your purposes. That said, we’ve been able to undertake some limited mapping of the commercial fisheries data in our possession, which shows that there are some scallop habitats that are not apparent from the Marine Planning Atlas. To demonstrate, the first map below shows the Marine Planning Atlas scallop landings for 2012 to 2021 along with the PFDA shapes and the proposed MPA network sites for these banks:



The following map has been prepared by one of our member companies and does not show the network plan MPA sites, but does include scallop landings in relation to the PFDA's from 2000 to 2010:



There are various parts of Sable/Western and Middle banks that clearly have landings in the 2000 to 2010 time series and demonstrate, at the very least, that there are viable commercial scallop habitats in these areas. What's more, this simply shows where scallop habitats have occurred, but there may be more viable areas adjacent to where these landings occurred, as fishing effort is determined, in part, by fishing considerations, including the conditions on other banks closer to port.

It is also important to note that despite a lack of landings in recent years, the industry continues to survey these banks to monitor the state of the commercial scallop fishery and these surveys do indicate continued scallop presence on Sable/Western and Middle Banks (albeit not necessarily in significant commercial sizes). 2023 was an unusually good year for scallop condition, but the DFO survey summaries for both Middle and Sable/Western are helpful in demonstrating that these banks remain of importance to the fishery and may support significant landings again, which can be found at the following links:

Finally, it is important to note that the offshore scallop fleet is only legally allowed to use mobile bottom-contacting gear and that it is highly unlikely that they will be able to fish within wind farms. What's more, the scallop fishery is also presumptively excluded from Marine Protected Areas due to its gear types. As a result the scallop fleet, which is overall a productive, sustainable, and high-value fishery with Marine Stewardship Council certification faces spatial pressures on three of its eight banks in the form of PFDAs (Middle, Sable/Western and St. Pierre Bank in Newfoundland & Labrador) as well as on four banks of eight banks from MPAs: Georges Bank, Browns Bank North, Browns Bank South and Sable/Western bank.

Therefore, it is important to note that for the purposes of wind site planning and compensation that there are important commercial scallop habitats on Middle and Sable/Western and it should not be assumed that there is a lack of commercial scallop interest due to the DFO Marine Planning Atlas time series. Any lack of landings can be explained by the nature of the fishery and the area continues to be monitored for commercial purposes. What's more, when the scallop fleet permanently loses access to certain areas it represents a loss of net present value, as new commercial scallop habitats are not forming and the scallop habitats on the Scotian Shelf are already well understood.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

Ian McIsaac  
President  
SPANS