

**Stakeholder Notification regarding
SAI Global's determination on the certificate suspension**

Gulf of St Lawrence snow crab trap fishery

**Client Group: Affiliation of Seafood Producers Association of Nova
Scotia (ASPANS)**

SAI Global was the accredited Conformity Assessment Body commissioned to carry out the 1st surveillance audit after re-assessment of the above fishery.

One of the objectives of this surveillance audit was to evaluate progress against the client corrective action plan implemented following the suspension of the certificate as a result of an expedited audit.

The audit team noted and commended all the parties involved with what can only be described as an impressive amount of management measures implemented in the 2018 season to mitigate the risk of mortality, reduce entanglements and minimize the UoA-related mortality of North Atlantic right whale.

However, the audit team did not have enough evidence and it is too early to say that:

- 1) Known direct effects of the UoA are likely to not hinder recovery of ETP species; and
- 2) These measures are expected to be highly likely to achieve national requirements for the protection of ETP species given that medium-long term benefits from these measures cannot be guaranteed based on a single season of protection measures to reverse the declining trend of the North Atlantic right whale population.

Although SAI Global's audit team determines that good progress has been made regarding the implementation of ASPANS corrective action plan, the team also concludes that the reasons of the suspension have not yet been fully addressed.

Therefore, SAI Global determines that:

- **The Gulf of St Lawrence snow crab trap fishery certificate shall remain suspended.**

Comments should be sent to:

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