



## Release Criteria Checklist - Open Government Canada

This form is a tool to ensure that an analysis of legal and policy requirements has been completed prior to the release of data to the public and internally. It also documents the approvals required for the release of the resource on open.canada.ca (Open Data, and Open Maps - OGP Open Government Portal available to the public) or Federal Geospatial Platform (FGP) only for spatial records, internal to GC.

Metadata/Resource Name	Description	Release Platform
Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence Ecosystem Research Vessel Survey (September Survey, NAFO Division 4T) Dataset	Tow, catch, length frequency, and biological information for fish caught during the annual September research vessel trawl surveys in the southern Gulf of St. Lawrence (NAFO Division 4T). Abundance indices and spatial distribution patterns of commercial and non-commercial groundfish. The catch data that appear in this dataset SHOULD NOT BE USED FOR ECOLOGICAL ANALYSES INVOLVING CATCH RATES. Important factors such as vessel, fishing gear and diurnal periods must be accounted for to use these data in analyses. Please contact the data custodians if you are interested in using this data for any kind of ecological analyses involving catch rates.	OGP
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### Release Criteria Checklist - Mandatory that all answers are YES to publish!

#### Legal / Licensing / Copyright

1. There are no known legal, licensing, or copyright restrictions to prevent the data or information from being released by the department or agency under the terms of the [Open Government Licence - Canada](#).

#### Authority to Release

2. Does DFO/CCG have the departmental mandate, legislative authority or permission from a third party provider to publish the data or information resource under the [Open Government Licence - Canada](#).

#### Access to Information and Privacy

3. Has the data/information been reviewed to ensure it is not subject to any exemptions or exclusions under the [Access to Information Act](#)?

4. Has the data/information been reviewed to ensure it does not contain any personal or confidential information? For further ATIP or privacy related guidance, please refer to the [Guidelines for the Informal Release of Information](#).

#### Security

5. Has the data/information to be released been reviewed and determined to be unclassified?

Note: Protected A, B, confidential, secret data/information cannot be posted on the Open Government Portal.

For further guidance on security categories, please refer to the following documents: [Information Security Guide](#) and the [TBS Directive on Security Management - Appendix J: Standard on Security Categorization](#).

## **Cost**

5. Is the data/information being released without a fee to the public?

## **Format**

7. Is the data/information provided in machine-readable/machine processable format?

8. Is the data/information provided in an open and non-proprietary format?

For further guidance on open and non-proprietary format, please refer to the [Standard on Web Accessibility](#).

## **Metadata**

9. Is the metadata for the data/information consistent with the Government of Canada metadata standard? For further guidance on metadata, please refer to the [TBS Standard on Metadata](#).

## **Official Languages**

10. Are the metadata and data both being provided in English and French as per the [Official Languages Act](#)?

## **Associated Publications**

Is this dataset associated with a publication? If yes, please provide details:

- Swain, D.P. & Benoît, H.P.. 2015. [Extreme increases in natural mortality prevent recovery of collapsed fish populations in a Northwest Atlantic ecosystem](#). Marine Ecology Progress Series 519, 165-182.
- Chouinard, G.A.; LeBlanc, C.; Hurlbut, T.; Morin, R.B.; Swain, D.P.; Currie, L.; Poirier, G.A.; Benoît, H.P.. 2006. [Preliminary Results from the September 2005 Bottom-trawl Survey of the Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence](#). CSAS Research Document 2006/007.
- Hurlbut, T., and D. Clay.. 1990. [Protocols for research vessel cruises within the Gulf Region \(demersal fish\) \(1970-1987\)](#). Canadian Manuscript Reports of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences 2082.
- Swain, D.P., Benoît, H.P., & Hammill, M.O. 2015. [Spatial distribution of fishes in a northwest Atlantic ecosystem in relation to risk of predation by a marine mammal](#). Journal of Animal Ecology 84(5):1286-98.

I, Pablo Vergara, answer YES to all the above questions and hereby authorize the release of the above dataset and related metadata on the Government of Canada's [Open Government Portal](#), to be freely available under the terms and conditions of the [Open Government Licence - Canada](#).

Furthermore, I confirm that this dataset and any future updates, meet and will meet the mandatory Release Criteria Checklist outlined above.

**NOTE:** the remaining approvals must be completed in the Enterprise Data Hub.

## **Data Contributor:**

Title:	Pablo Vergara, Aquatic Science Biologist - Data manager	Digitally approved by Pablo Vergara on Feb. 11, 2026, 3:43 p.m.
Sector:	Ecosystems & Oceans Science (Gulf)	

## **Data Steward:**

Title:	Amélie Robichaud, Senior Program Officer / Administrateur de programme principal
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Digitally approved by Amélie  
Robichaud on Feb. 13, 2026,  
10:56 a.m.

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