

March 22, 2024

Dear Applicant,

Re: Your request for access to information under Part II of the **Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, 2015** (IPGS/018/2024)

On February 23, 2024, the Department of Immigration, Population Growth and Skills received your request for access to the following records:

All emails sent/received by the Minister, Deputy Minister, and Assistant Deputy Ministers re Redfish fishery from December 1, 2023, to present.

I am pleased to inform you that a decision has been made by the Department of Immigration, Population Growth and Skills, (IPGS), to provide access to some of the information requested.

The remaining information has been exempted from disclosure pursuant to the **Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, 2015** (the Act) to include:

Disclosure harmful to personal privacy;

Section 40(1): The head of a public body shall refuse to disclose personal information to an applicant where the disclosure would be an unreasonable invasion of a third party's personal privacy.

Please be advised that you may ask the Information and Privacy Commissioner to review the processing of your access request, as set out in section 42 of **the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, 2015** (the Act) (a copy of this section has been enclosed for your reference). A request to the Commissioner must be made in writing within 15 business days of the date of this letter or within a longer period that may be allowed by the Commissioner.

The address and contact information of the Information and Privacy Commissioner is as follows:

Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner
2 Canada Drive
P. O. Box 13004, Stn. A
St. John's, NL. A1B 3V8

Telephone: (709) 729-6309
Toll-Free: 1-877-729-6309
Email: commissioner@oipc.nl.ca

You may also appeal directly to the Supreme Court within 15 business days after you receive the decision of the public body, pursuant to section 52 of the Act (a copy of this section has been enclosed for your reference).



Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
Department of Immigration, Population Growth and Skills

If you have any further questions, please contact me via email at ATIPP-IPGS@gov.nl.ca.

Sincerely,

Cindy Joyce

Cindy Joyce
IPGS ATIPP Coordinator

Access or correction complaint

42. (1) A person who makes a request under this Act for access to a record or for correction of personal information may file a complaint with the commissioner respecting a decision, act or failure to act of the head of the public body that relates to the request.

(2) A complaint under subsection (1) shall be filed in writing not later than 15 business days

(a) after the applicant is notified of the decision of the head of the public body, or the date of the act or failure to act; or

(b) after the date the head of the public body is considered to have refused the request under subsection 16 (2).

(3) A third party informed under section 19 of a decision of the head of a public body to grant access to a record or part of a record in response to a request may file a complaint with the commissioner respecting that decision.

(4) A complaint under subsection (3) shall be filed in writing not later than 15 business days after the third party is informed of the decision of the head of the public body.

(5) The commissioner may allow a longer time period for the filing of a complaint under this section.

(6) A person or third party who has appealed directly to the Trial Division under subsection 52 (1) or 53 (1) shall not file a complaint with the commissioner.

(7) The commissioner shall refuse to investigate a complaint where an appeal has been commenced in the Trial Division.

(8) A complaint shall not be filed under this section with respect to

(a) a request that is disregarded under section 21 ;

(b) a decision respecting an extension of time under section 23 ;

(c) a variation of a procedure under section 24 ; or

(d) an estimate of costs or a decision not to waive a cost under section 26 .

(9) The commissioner shall provide a copy of the complaint to the head of the public body concerned.

Direct appeal to Trial Division by an applicant

52. (1) Where an applicant has made a request to a public body for access to a record or correction of personal information and has not filed a complaint with the commissioner under section 42, the applicant may appeal the decision, act or failure to act of the head of the public body that relates to the request directly to the Trial Division.

(2) An appeal shall be commenced under subsection (1) not later than 15 business days

(a) after the applicant is notified of the decision of the head of the public body, or the date of the act or failure to act; or

(b) after the date the head of the public body is considered to have refused the request under subsection 16 (2).

(3) Where an applicant has filed a complaint with the commissioner under section 42 and the commissioner has refused to investigate the complaint, the applicant may commence an appeal in the Trial Division of the decision, act or failure to act of the head of the public body that relates to the request for access to a record or for correction of personal information.

(4) An appeal shall be commenced under subsection (3) not later than 15 business days after the applicant is notified of the commissioner's refusal under subsection 45 (2).

From: Jenny Brake <j.brake@qalipu.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2024 3:06 PM
To: dfo.minister-ministre.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca, diane.lebouthillier@parl.gc.ca
Cc: Premier of NL, Loveless, Elvis, FFAMinister, gudie.hutchings@parl.gc.ca, Byrne, Gerry, jspingle@ffaw.ca, Chief and Council, John Davis, Charles Pender
Subject: Concerns about recent announcement regarding redfish quota allocation
Attachments: Letter to Minister Lebouthillier_February 7, 2024..pdf

[This attachment is on pgs. 4-5 and is also captured in the email below.](#)

February 7th, 2024

Hon. Diane Lebouthillier, PC
Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard
200 Kent St Station 15N100
Ottawa ON K1A 0E6

Dear Minister:

It was a pleasure to meet you recently during your visit to Newfoundland last month. Our conversations left me feeling positive and hopeful and did not prepare me for the outcome of your announcement regarding the redfish fishery quota allocation. On behalf of Qalipu First Nation, I am writing to express my deep concern and extreme disappointment regarding the details around the recent announcement on the reopening of the Unit 1 redfish fishery.

As you are aware, Qalipu First Nation, through our commercial fishing entity, Mi'kmaq Commercial Fisheries, has been a core member of your Redfish Advisory Committee (RAC) since its inception nearly eight years ago. We have been conscientious and eager participants to provide valuable input which would lead to the re-opening of this crucial fishery in a balanced and equitable manner.

You can imagine our shock on January 26th, when you announced that the vast majority of the 25,000mt allocation would go to interests in Nova Scotia and Quebec, primarily the offshore fleet. Nearly 50 years ago, your predecessor, Hon. Romeo LeBlanc, banned offshore vessels from the Gulf. This was due to the vast amount of resources they harvested to the point of stock depletion with no economic benefit to the thousands of inshore harvesters and plant workers who lived along the coastline closest to the fish stock. Of the many stakeholders who participated in the redfish consultations in recent years, only a professional lobby representing the offshore fleet advocated the return of these large vessels. This is quite a policy reversal.

Qalipu First Nation has consistently put forward our request for a specific allocation based purely on the long-established principles of adjacency and historical attachment. Redfish has been one of the backbones of the commercial fishery on the Gulf coast of Newfoundland for more than a hundred years, well before confederation with Canada.

Numerous enterprise owners as well as hundreds of fish plant workers are Qalipu First Nation members, with a longstanding, deep attachment to this fishery that spans generations. We have articulated to your predecessors and senior officials the intrinsic importance of the redfish fishery to Qalipu First Nation. We have strived to ensure a deep understanding of the principles of reconciliation and our constitutional right to have primary access to fish resources immediately adjacent to our QFN communities. Qalipu First Nation was among the few, if not the only, First Nation participants in the Gulf experimental redfish fishery over the past few years. No other Indigenous organization in Atlantic Canada or Quebec has demonstrated an interest or the capacity to participate.

Regretfully, Qalipu First Nation's effort to work with DFO to re-establish this fishery appears to have been completely disregarded.

We currently face a situation where offshore entities effectively hold sole control over access to this resource, leaving all other inshore participants largely excluded from participating in this fishery. Our expectation was that you would provide significant access to only those Indigenous communities who hold communal commercial licenses, traditionally participated in the redfish fishery, own licenses, and boats and employ professional Indigenous harvesters with access to established redfish processing plants. Instead, this announcement will create an insignificant Indigenous bank of resources to be spread amongst an estimated forty Bands. As the vast majority of these organizations have no historical attachment to either redfish or any other commercial fishery, there is little doubt most of this resource will be offered to the offshore fleet for a token royalty.

The redfish policy announcement poses alarming questions about the government's approach to long-term responsible fisheries management and its commitment to Indigenous reconciliation. On behalf of Qalipu First Nation's 25,000 members, I have to stress in the strongest terms that this decision seriously jeopardizes the livelihoods of countless Indigenous fishers. It also fundamentally undermines our faith in the government's responsibility to First Nation organizations and their efforts to build sustainable, economically vibrant communities through the reconciliation process.

I urge you to reconsider this announcement and prioritize the adoption of a redfish allocation share policy which accentuates an inshore and Indigenous-centered fishery as its primary objective. Qalipu First Nation also formally requests an immediate, in-person meeting with you to discuss this policy framework in greater detail.

Sincerely,

40(1)



Jenny Brake

Interim Chief, Qalipu First Nation First Nation

cc. Andrew Furey, Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador; Elvis Loveless, Minister of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture of Newfoundland and Labrador; MP Gudie Hutchings, Minister responsible for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, Minister of Rural Economic Development; Gerry Byrne, Minister of Immigration, Population Growth and Skills; Jason Spingle, Secretary-Treasurer Fish, Food and Allied Workers Union; Qalipu First Nation Band Council; John Davis, CEO Qalipu Holdings LP; Charles Pender, Band Manager



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Sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box redacting the signature of Jenny Brake.

Jenny Brake
Interim Chief, Qalipu First Nation First Nation

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From: Byrne, Gerry
Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2024 3:22 PM
To: thebroadcast@cbc.ca
Subject: Fwd: Concerns about recent announcement regarding redfish quota allocation
Attachments: image001.png, Letter to Minister Lebouthillier_February 7, 2024..pdf

[For this attachment please see pgs. 4-5, and it is included in the email below.](#)

CBC has obtained...no reference please.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Jenny Brake <j.brake@qalipu.ca>
Date: February 7, 2024 at 3:06:32 PM NST
To: dfo.minister-ministre.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca, diane.lebouthillier@parl.gc.ca
Cc: Premier of NL <Premier@gov.nl.ca>, "Loveless, Elvis" <ElvisLoveless@gov.nl.ca>, FFAMinister <FFAMinister@gov.nl.ca>, gudie.hutchings@parl.gc.ca, "Byrne, Gerry" <GerryByrne@gov.nl.ca>, jspingle@ffaw.ca, Chief and Council <chiefandcouncil@qalipu.ca>, John Davis <john.davis@qalipudevelopment.com>, Charles Pender <cpender@qalipu.ca>
Subject: Concerns about recent announcement regarding redfish quota allocation

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

February 7th, 2024

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Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard
200 Kent St Station 15N100
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Sincerely,

40(1)



From: Byrne, Gerry <GerryByrne@gov.nl.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2024 8:49 PM
To: Gerry Byrne
Subject: Redfish

Who gets first crack at these fish? Here I must say that I have a clear bias for the inshore fisherman. Not because of some romantic regard, not because of his picture on the calendars, but because he can not travel far after fish, because he depends on fishing for his income, because his community in turn depends on his fishery being protected.

Who said these words?

Hon. Romeo LeBlanc, Liberal Minister of Fisheries and Oceans 1977 in a speech to the Rotary Club of St. Johns explaining his decision to ban offshore vessels from outside of the Gulf of St Lawrence from being allowed to fish inside of the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

This week, I will put forward evidence that Offshore Factory Vessels and Companies do NOT have historical attachment to gulf Redfish and hasnt had it in 50+ years.

Reaction to Fridays Redfish quota allocations to Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, PEI and Newfoundland and Labrador are not being well received here on the west coast or by informed conservationists. The unfortunate capacity increase that Ottawa has re-created will likely come back to haunt us all again in a way no different than Northern Cod.

Whats the fuss over this Redfish, anyway?

Heres what all the fuss is about and it deserves to be fussed over!

This is the first time in 30 years that DFO has opened a groundfish fishery that had been previously closed.

Redfish in the Gulf of St Lawrence closed in 1995, just a few years after the complete collapse of Northern Cod, the groundfish resource which was, arguably, the greatest single source of protein on the planet.

DFOs opening of Gulf Redfish was widely anticipated. Biomass of the resource has grown exponentially, arising from three particularly productive year classes; 2011, 12 and 13.

As such, all of us who have been following this were anticipating that DFO would put on full display for everyone to see all of the knowledge, wisdom and energy it acquired about good conservation and stewardship learned from its investigation of federal groundfish mis-management of the 1980s and 1990s.

What we learned is that the federal department of Fisheries and Oceans is intellectually and morally bankrupt. It has no capacity to understand even basic concepts of conservation, stewardship or fair decision making.

In my opinion, the storyline that should capture todays Redfish advisory meeting is a straightforward one.

To those who have time on their hands or a special interest in this, read on

In the 1970s, fishable redfish biomass grew exponentially from the pulse of two strong year classes from the late 1950s. (Redfish take 10 plus years to reach a marketable size and also equally long to reach sexual maturity to replace itself). This biomass pulse led to a massive drive by fishing interests in all five eastern Canadian provinces to build plants, build boats and to compete for the fish. Full Canadianization of the gulf of St Lawrence fishery in 1977 aided this policy-led investment.

By 1976, however, the impacts of this over-capitalization became clear when these two year classes from 1950s were fished hard with limited recruitment proceeding them. Quotas dropped.

Fortunately, recruitment from some singular 1970s year classes mitigated this drop and by the time the mid-1980s rolled around, the consequence to commercial fishing and a risk of closure was lessened. Life went on.

By 1995, however, there were no saviour year classes - the pulse of redfish that seemed to appear every ten or 15 years did not occur

were no where to be found. Like the 1980s, a Hail-Mary pulse was needed to salvage the fishery and feed the enormous appetite created by the bloated capacity of factory trawlers and fishplants in every port.

By 1995, Redfish in the gulf of St Lawrence collapsed and went into a moratorium that lasted 30 years.

DFO has had 30 years to reflect on what over-capacity can do to a resource and what the insatiable appetite to feed this capacity can do to a stock.

This insatiable appetite for fish is created by the need to keep the lenders for the boats and the plants fed with cash.

And so, during this 30 year period, natural selection - economic natural selection - took its course. Plants were burned or fell down, factory freezer trawlers were scrapped and plant workers aged out and were never replaced with a new generation of worker.

The one exception to this is the west coast of Newfoundland. Here is something interesting to point out.

Redfish has a sister fishery; a similar high volume, relatively low value fish that is difficult to market; the sister fishery to redfish (even though redfish is a groundfish and different biology) are pelagics - herring and mackerel.

Freezing capacity is the real driver to pelagics as it will be for the processing of redfish. Very little redfish in the Gulf today will ever be filleted. It will be sold head on frozen whole. Its too small to fillet.

Let no one bullshit otherwise.

The Barry Group on the west coast, likeem or not, have been in the herring business for four generations. They have maintained a steady business in herring and mackerel and in redfish to the extent that it was available. Interestingly enough, fishermen from other provinces who had test fisheries for redfish have sold their fish to Barrys for processing. Barrys plant workers stayed active, boats continued to work.

Today, redfish in the gulf is being blessed with a strong pulse from three year classes from 2011, 2012 and 2013. Biomass from these three year classes have created a biomass bonanza. Thats been the story of redfish since time immemorial.

So today, with all that DFO knows, is it smart to allocate resource to offshore companies that have no boats to fish this resource, no plants to process it, no workers to work in them, no high-volume freezing capacity needed to market it and, in the process tell them now is great time to go and build factory trawler boats in the dockyards of the former Soviet Union, build more plants and bring in temporary foreign workers to work them and and just like the days of old taxpayers will give you \$50 million from the Atlantic Fisheries Fund to do it.

Instead of creating monsters that will need to be fed, isnt it smarter to use the existing Otter Trawl fleet of the gulf who have proven ability to catch this and who are now starving due to the bloom of redfish that are devouring their shrimp resource - redfish love plankton and plankton-like creatures).

Use these idle boats and the plants designed for high volume fisheries that are already located and active on the shores of the Gulf of St Lawrence - in western Newfoundland - to process this resource and employ the local indigenous plant workers who make up 70 % of the plants workforce rather than temporary foreign workers?

Thats the truth that should be debated.

To those following the recent Redfish allocation in the Gulf of St Lawrence, this will be of interest to you.

In 1981, DFO and the federal Liberal government released Toward a Policy for the Management of Gulf Groundfish.

This policy document laid out future access criteria for cod and for redfish in the Gulf of St Lawrence.

The policy prioritized future access as follows:

(1) For cod, fixed gear takes precedence;

(2) For Redfish, the Otter Trawl fleet less than 100 feet in length based in Gulf ports is the priority;

(3) should any Redfish become available surplus to the catching capacity of the Otter Trawl fleet, then it can be allocated to others.

The Discussion Paper also spelled out the firm position that constructing new harvesting or processing capacity was inherently dangerous to conservation. The paper went at length to describe the needs of the current fleet of boats in the Gulf and to keep decision making focused on them.

Dr. Scott Parsons, former assistant deputy minister of science at DFO described the impact of this policy in his epic tomb, Management of Marine Fisheries in Canada:

This policy set the stage for allocating Gulf groundfish over the next decade

What happened in 2024 is a betrayal to all that has become known about groundfish conservation.

The 2017 Redfish Promise What was the point of it?!?

In 2017, the Minister Fisheries and Oceans, Hon. Dominic LeBlanc, Qalipu First Nation Chief, Brendon Sheppard, and the Barry Group of Companies who represent the best interests of the fishplants and the indigenous fishplant workers of Curling, Benoit's Cove, Coxs Cove as well as the groundfish/pelagics enterprises of the Bay of Islands region signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the two governments and BGI guaranteeing the west coast of Newfoundland and the Qalipu First Nation membership with preferred access to Gulf Redfish.

A special ceremony was held. Ottawa promised that the west coast of Newfoundland including the groundfish only vessels and the inshore 4R Shrimp Fleet would be prioritized in the future resource allocation. This promise was based on adjacency, based on Truth and Reconciliation and based on the best prospects for resource conservation by way of preventing an unnecessary, massive buildup of factory freezer vessels and brand new plants.

This federal promise was broken in full on January 26, 2024

It can be difficult to make sense of it all!

It would be understandable if you feel this way about Ottawa's decision around Gulf redfish.

Ottawa and the federal cabinet say history is the sole driver of all resource allocation decisions. History.

Then why have a federal fisheries department at all then? Have a group of three people do the math and make every decision. Done.

Why not? Because that would be stupid.

To loosely quote the current Prime Minister, this is the 21st century not the 20th. Conservation must be the 21st century priority.

Allocating redfish, or any fish for that matter, to offshore companies who don't have trawlers to catch it or plants to process it means that more capacity - new boats, new plants - will be built by the offshore in order to come back into the fishery. This increase in capacity creates an insatiable demand for more, and more and more fish. And this leads to the beginning of the end.

Think this is not solid thinking? On Monday of this week, the federal minister of Fisheries and Oceans, trying to ease the legitimate concerns of the 90 existing inshore boats of the Gulf of St Lawrence - all of who will get the equivalent of just half a day's fishing, half a trip, from the 10% of the quota they have been assigned - reassured the inshore fleet by saying I may raise the quota from 25,000t to 75,000t and 10% of 75,000 tonnes is better than 10% of 25,000t isn't it! Avoid mathematical short cuts of the present and remember

Ottawa can give out fish like it prints money (my words not hers.)

And so, the cycle begins solve the political problem with political fish.

And so, here is the 21st century solution which has totally escaped the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans:

Fully use the existing capacity in the Gulf of St Lawrence before promoting a massive ballooning of more, new capacity - new factory

trawlers, new plants new everything.

Use what you have first. Dont create the insatiable appetite to feed new capacity with more and more and more fish. Stick with conservation.

History is not 21st century knowledge. In the wake of the groundfish collapse of Atlantic Canada in 1993 including Gulf redfish in 1995, being a slave to history is to be a slave to failure.

The same fleet that destroyed the fishery should not be the fleet that gets first and best access today.

But, for those demanding history be respected, remember this; In 1976, Romeo LeBlanc banned vessels from outside the Gulf from fishing redfish setting a floor that the first 30,000t was be granted exclusively to Gulf based boats. Federal DFO minister Pierre DeBane strengthened this historical share for the gulf-based boats by increasing that threshold to 40,000t. How is that for a history lesson.

The real history of the lessons learned from Gulf redfish resource?

Conservation first;
Adjacency first;
Existing capacity first;

These are the principles DFO has abandoned.

This is why I vote non-confidence in DFO to manage this resource.

Historic Attachment

Is

Colonial Attachment

Federal government bypasses Indigenous Reconciliation in favour of corporate interests when it comes to Gulf Redfish.

History has its place in the decision making matrix but conservation must be first. And conservation tells us, use existing capacity before creating new capacity.

Did you know there are five indigenous enterprises in the Gulf, in the Bay of Islands in particular, completely dependent on groundfish who only get a half of one trip of redfish in a year while offshore companies get the bulk?

Is that right?

No its not.

Sent from my iPhone

Joyce, Cindy

From: Brian Dicks [REDACTED] [40\(1\)](#)
Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2024 8:43 AM
To: FFAMinister
Subject: Fwd: Gulf of St Lawrence Redfish

Fyi, see below.

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From: Brian Dicks [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2024 8:39:21 a.m.
To: guy gallant [REDACTED]; ElvisLoveless@gov.nl.ca <ElvisLoveless@gov.nl.ca>; Goudie Hutchings [REDACTED]; Bill Barry <bbarry@barrgroupinc.com>; j.brake@qalipu.ca <j.brake@qalipu.ca>; GerryByrne@gov.nl.ca <GerryByrne@gov.nl.ca>
Subject: Re: Gulf of St Lawrence Redfish

Good morning, Guy,

Thank you for this letter, clearly outlining the dire situation imposed upon you and other Indigenous enterprise holders in light of the recent redfish allocation.

You have my full support and I look forward to our meeting to address and resolve this imbalance.

Regards,
 Brian

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

From: guy gallant [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2024 10:09:46 p.m.
To: ElvisLoveless@gov.nl.ca <ElvisLoveless@gov.nl.ca>; Goudie Hutchings [REDACTED]; GerryByrne@gov.nl.ca <GerryByrne@gov.nl.ca>; Bill Barry <bbarry@barrgroupinc.com>; brian-dicks [REDACTED]; j.brake@qalipu.ca <j.brake@qalipu.ca>
Subject: FW: Gulf of St Lawrence Redfish

Sent from my Galaxy

----- Original message -----

From: guy gallant [REDACTED]
 Date: 2024-02-07 9:43 p.m. (GMT-03:30)
 To: ElvisLoveless@gov.nl.ca
 Subject: Gulf of St Lawrence Redfish

Greetings Mr Loveless, My name is Guy Gallant I am 4r enterprise owner from the bay of islands and a member of the Qualipu first nation's and also a member of the ffaw. I am writing to request a meeting with you and Mr Byrne and whomever you wish to attend, when you come to corner brook on Feb 19 and 20, as I have requested the help of Mr Byrne (and he has graciously accepted) on the subject of the gulf redfish and how it is impacting a small number of indigenous enterprise holders that are not being supported by the ffaw, of which we are all members of too, however they are withholding information from you that I feel you should be aware of before all final decisions are to be made, you see that the ffaw are fighting for the shrimp harvesters without even as much as a mention or side note of us, we were the only ones fishing redfish in the gulf for a number of years because the rest of the fleet up north were occupied with the more lucrative shrimp fishery. We think they should also be putting our concerns on their agenda. Our small portion of the fleet are fully dependent upon the redfish for our enterprise. We were denied access to the shrimp because the fleet down on the northern peninsula with the help of the ffaw formed a committee called north of 50 30, for the sole purpose to keep us from obtaining access to the shrimp. We feel that if any extra allocation be to those of us that have no access to shrimp first and any extra after that can be given to the shrimp fleet. The shrimp fleet has no justification of asking for a separate allocation that takes from the overall TAC when they have the same access to the inshore allocation as we do. We do not have shrimp and are solely dependent on the groundfish/redfish But this will leave them who already has more than us because of the shrimp with a larger portion of the TAC, and an extra 10% that I can't access because they discriminated against the 4 or 5 enterprises back in the 90's. I asked Mr Byrne if he could arrange for you and I to meet and he encouraged me to reach out to you through email and noted to me that he would give his support to the request.

I leave you with my gratitude to you for taking the time to review this note and with the hope of meeting with you soon, as this matter is very important to us and our communities and as you know time is running out before decisions are to be made. Furthermore I will be reaching out to Mr Barry,(Barry group) to whom I owe my longevity in this fishery to, Mr Dicks and Jenny Brake of the Qualipu first nation's to attend as well, of which I know I have support of in this matter.

Once again thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Kindest regards,

Guy...

guygallantjr [REDACTED] [40\(1\)](#)

From: Byrne, Gerry <GerryByrne@gov.nl.ca>
Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2024 9:51 AM
To: Gerry Byrne
Subject: Redfish 2

Good morning - some food for thought from our discussion yesterday evening.

You are being asked to accept a fraction of a quota that, by rights, should be yours, in total.

You are being offered table scraps, when the main course is being served up elsewhere for a grand feast, at your expense.

This is a nothing more than theft of your resource dressed up and presented as a grand gift.

They are expecting you to be grateful.

No thanks. Return to Sender.
Sent from my iPhone

From: Tompkins, John
Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2024 11:08 AM
To: Byrne, Gerry
Cc: Chaytor, Kerry
Subject: FAW demo
Attachments: KMs - Redfish - NTV - Feb 7 2024.docx, Response from Minister Loveless to Minister Lebouthillier - Proposed Revised Unit 1 Redfish Allocation Regime.pdf

Minister, FYI sending attached from FFA
Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Shea, Erin" <ErinShea@gov.nl.ca>
Date: February 8, 2024 at 10:26:58 AM NST
To: "Tompkins, John" <jtompkins@gov.nl.ca>
Subject: RE: FAW demo

I'm attaching the KMs and also the letter to DFO that our EA sent to her EA yesterday - it's in her MHA capacity so your min may be interested in it as well.

Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture Redfish Allocations February 7, 2024

Issue:

A recent announcement by the federal minister of fisheries detailed how they expect to open the redfish fishery. The Provincial Government subsequently issued a news release expressing concern over the commercial redfish quota share allocation for this province.

Questions:

- Why are you concerned with the commercial redfish quota allocation?
- How will you help ensure NL benefits from reopening the commercial redfish fishery?

Key Messages

- We are pleased to see a reopening of a commercial redfish fishery after so many years of closure. This represents new opportunities for both our harvesting and processing sectors.
- We are extremely disappointed with our province's share of the commercial redfish quota.
- DFO failed to appropriately take these principles into consideration in making their decision.
- We will continue to impress upon the Federal Government the need to obtain our fair share.
- We advised the Federal Government that redfish quota allocations should consider:
 - Newfoundland and Labrador's historical attachment to the fishery,
 - the longstanding principle of adjacency
 - reconciliation with Indigenous peoples.

Secondary Messages

- When Minister Loveless met with the federal Minister, they agreed on the need for federal management decisions to support the sustainability of rural communities and families.
- We have written the federal minister to express concern, request re-consideration of redfish quota allocations, and present options to support impacted shrimp harvesters.
- Given the significant quota reduction in Shrimp Fishing Area 8, we are calling for an increase in the redfish quota share for our shrimp harvesters in this province as well as consideration of a licence buyback program.
- Officials from our Government are actively engaged with the Redfish Advisory Committee that is meeting in the coming weeks to determine quota allocations for each fleet, establish management measures, and consult on a Total Allowable Catch for this fishing season.



Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture
Office of the Minister

February 2, 2024

DOC/2023/01124-04

The Honourable Diane Lebouthillier, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard
Fisheries and Oceans Canada, 200 Kent Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0E6
min@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Dear Minister Lebouthillier:

I am writing to follow up on our recent meeting in St. John's where we discussed fishery and aquaculture issues that are important to Newfoundland and Labrador. I acknowledge your recent correspondence regarding the input provided by the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador on a new access and allocation regime for the re-opening of a commercial Redfish fishery in Unit 1.

At our meeting we discussed the need for fair and equitable treatment for Newfoundland and Labrador in all federal fisheries and aquaculture decisions impacting harvesters and processors in this province. The re-opening of the Unit 1 Redfish fishery presented an opportunity to ensure Newfoundland and Labrador received a fair share of the allocation based on its historical attachment to the Redfish fishery and the long-standing principle of adjacency in fisheries management decisions. I am very disappointed that the provincial allocation for Newfoundland and Labrador did not increase to reflect these principles. Officials from my department will be actively engaged in the Redfish Advisory Committee to ensure our interests are represented as this exciting restart to the Redfish fishery in Unit 1 unfolds.

The Province supports a share of the allocation being provided for Indigenous peoples and shrimp harvesters. The announced reduction in Total Allowable Catch for Gulf shrimp is of great concern for shrimp harvesters in our province. I appreciate the intent of the 10% Redfish allocation for shrimp harvesters to help alleviate some of the impact of the Total Allowable Catch reduction. But given the number of harvesters who have licences for Shrimp Fishing Area 8, I am requesting your immediate consideration of an additional increase of the allocation impacted by the decline in the shrimp resource supplemented by a buyback program for harvesters who are able to leave the industry. This has an added benefit for the remaining harvesters who would have access to a greater share of the remaining quota.

.../2

As the Minister of Fisheries, Forestry, and Agriculture, I am committed to working with you to advance our common goals. At our meeting we talked about our shared vision, the importance of the fishery to sustaining the way of life of rural communities and families. As I stated in our meeting, which I think bears repeating, in order to do that it requires our fair share. I believe a positive response to my requests would support communities and families throughout Newfoundland and Labrador, and particularly those on the Great Northern Peninsula.

The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador will continue to collaborate with Fisheries and Oceans Canada as we work towards a modern, sustainably managed Redfish commercial fishery in the Gulf of St. Lawrence that will benefit the people and communities of our province.

I ask for your consideration of my requests and a timely response. As always, I am available to continue our discussions on this important matter.

Sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction box covers the signature area, obscuring the name and any handwritten notes.

HONOURABLE ÉLVIS LOVELESS, MHA
District of Fortune Bay – Cape La Hune
Minister

- c. Honourable Dr. Andrew Furey, Premier
Honourable Gudie Hutchings, Minister of Rural Economic Development and
Minister responsible for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency
Honourable Krista Lynn Howell, Minister of Education

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 9, 2024 2:01 PM
To: Byrne, Gerry
Subject: [REDACTED]

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Gerry , It was great again chatting with you [REDACTED] and you are doing a great job speaking for NL fishermen attaining more redfish allocations.

From: Joy, Carla
Sent: Monday, February 19, 2024 10:47 AM
To: Rideout, Lynne
Subject: FW: Email from Guy Gallant / Gulf of St Lawrence Redfish / Requesting a meeting with the Minister when he is out in Corner Brook on Feb 18
Attachments: Email from Guy Gallant Gulf of St Lawrence Redfish Requesting a meeting with the Minister when he is out in Corner Brook on Feb 18.MSG, Email from Guy Gallant Gulf of St Lawrence Redfish Requesting a meeting with the Minister when he is out in Corner Brook on Feb 18.tr5
[For the attachment referenced, please see pg. 15](#)

Here is what I sent to Sheri. Please talk to her as she was sending it on to Minister Byrne.

-----Original Message-----

From: Joy, Carla
Sent: Friday, February 16, 2024 2:35 PM
To: Kieley, Sheri <SheriKieley@gov.nl.ca>
Subject: Email from Guy Gallant / Gulf of St Lawrence Redfish / Requesting a meeting with the Minister when he is out in Corner Brook on Feb 18

-----< HPE Records Manager record Information >-----

Record Number : COR/2024/00422
Title : Email from Guy Gallant / Gulf of St Lawrence Redfish / Requesting a meeting with the Minister when he is out in Corner Brook on Feb 18

From: Kieley, Sheri
Sent: Monday, February 19, 2024 10:48 AM
To: Rideout, Lynne
Subject: FW: Email from Guy Gallant / Gulf of St Lawrence Redfish / Requesting a meeting with the Minister when he is out in Corner Brook on Feb 18
Attachments: Email from Guy Gallant Gulf of St Lawrence Redfish Requesting a meeting with the Minister when he is out in Corner Brook on Feb 18.MSG, Email from Guy Gallant Gulf of St Lawrence Redfish Requesting a meeting with the Minister when he is out in Corner Brook on Feb 18.tr5
[For the attachment referenced, please see pg. 15](#)

FYI - I have not anything back from the Minister on this.

Sheri

-----Original Message-----

From: Kieley, Sheri
Sent: Friday, February 16, 2024 2:50 PM
To: Byrne, Gerry <GerryByrne@gov.nl.ca>
Subject: FW: Email from Guy Gallant / Gulf of St Lawrence Redfish / Requesting a meeting with the Minister when he is out in Corner Brook on Feb 18

Good Afternoon Minister,

I just received a call from Minister Loveless' Secretary regarding the attached email. She is making arrangements for the meeting and was asking about your interest/availability.

[Non Responsive](#)

Kind regards,

Sheri

-----Original Message-----

From: Joy, Carla <carlajoy@gov.nl.ca>
Sent: Friday, February 16, 2024 2:35 PM
To: Kieley, Sheri <SheriKieley@gov.nl.ca>
Subject: Email from Guy Gallant / Gulf of St Lawrence Redfish / Requesting a meeting with the Minister when he is out in Corner Brook on Feb 18

-----< HPE Records Manager record Information >-----

Record Number : COR/2024/00422
Title : Email from Guy Gallant / Gulf of St Lawrence Redfish / Requesting a meeting with the Minister when he is out in Corner Brook on Feb 18

From: Rideout, Lynne
Sent: Monday, February 19, 2024 12:05 PM
To: Byrne, Gerry
Subject: RE: HPE Records Manager Correspondence : COR-2024-00113 : Email from Guy Gallant / to Minister Elvis Loveless / Requesting a meeting with Minister Loveless and Minister Byrne / Regarding the Gulf of St Lawrence Redfish

Thank you, I will advise FFA.

Lynne

-----Original Message-----

From: Byrne, Gerry <GerryByrne@gov.nl.ca>
Sent: Monday, February 19, 2024 12:03 PM
To: Rideout, Lynne <LynneRideout@gov.nl.ca>
Subject: Re: HPE Records Manager Correspondence : COR-2024-00113 : Email from Guy Gallant / to Minister Elvis Loveless / Requesting a meeting with Minister Loveless and Minister Byrne / Regarding the Gulf of St Lawrence Redfish

I am available at any time

Sent from my iPhone

> On Feb 19, 2024, at 11:03 AM, Rideout, Lynne <LynneRideout@gov.nl.ca> wrote:
>
> Good morning Minister,
>
> Minister Loveless' office has reached out regarding your availability to attend a meeting with Minister Loveless?
>
> Kind Regards,
>
> Lynne
>
> -----< HPE Records Manager record Information >-----
>
> Record Number : COR-2024-00113
> Title : Email from Guy Gallant / to Minister Elvis Loveless / Requesting a meeting with Minister Loveless and Minister Byrne / Regarding the Gulf of St Lawrence Redfish
>
> <Email from Guy Gallant to Minister Elvis Loveless ~ Minister Loveless and Minister Byrne Regarding the Gulf of St Lawrence Redfish.MSG>

From: Jenny Brake <j.brake@qalipu.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2024 3:06 PM
To: dfo.minister-ministre.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca, diane.lebouthillier@parl.gc.ca
Cc: Premier of NL, Loveless, Elvis, FFAMinister, gudie.hutchings@parl.gc.ca, Byrne, Gerry, jspingle@ffaw.ca, Chief and Council, John Davis, Charles Pender
Subject: Concerns about recent announcement regarding redfish quota allocation
Attachments: Letter to Minister Lebouthillier_February 7, 2024..pdf

[This attachment is on pgs. 4-5 and is also captured in the email below.](#)

February 7th, 2024

Hon. Diane Lebouthillier, PC
Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard
200 Kent St Station 15N100
Ottawa ON K1A 0E6

Dear Minister:

It was a pleasure to meet you recently during your visit to Newfoundland last month. Our conversations left me feeling positive and hopeful and did not prepare me for the outcome of your announcement regarding the redfish fishery quota allocation. On behalf of Qalipu First Nation, I am writing to express my deep concern and extreme disappointment regarding the details around the recent announcement on the reopening of the Unit 1 redfish fishery.

As you are aware, Qalipu First Nation, through our commercial fishing entity, Mi'kmaq Commercial Fisheries, has been a core member of your Redfish Advisory Committee (RAC) since its inception nearly eight years ago. We have been conscientious and eager participants to provide valuable input which would lead to the re-opening of this crucial fishery in a balanced and equitable manner.

You can imagine our shock on January 26th, when you announced that the vast majority of the 25,000mt allocation would go to interests in Nova Scotia and Quebec, primarily the offshore fleet. Nearly 50 years ago, your predecessor, Hon. Romeo LeBlanc, banned offshore vessels from the Gulf. This was due to the vast amount of resources they harvested to the point of stock depletion with no economic benefit to the thousands of inshore harvesters and plant workers who lived along the coastline closest to the fish stock. Of the many stakeholders who participated in the redfish consultations in recent years, only a professional lobby representing the offshore fleet advocated the return of these large vessels. This is quite a policy reversal.

Qalipu First Nation has consistently put forward our request for a specific allocation based purely on the long-established principles of adjacency and historical attachment. Redfish has been one of the backbones of the commercial fishery on the Gulf coast of Newfoundland for more than a hundred years, well before confederation with Canada.

Numerous enterprise owners as well as hundreds of fish plant workers are Qalipu First Nation members, with a longstanding, deep attachment to this fishery that spans generations. We have articulated to your predecessors and senior officials the intrinsic importance of the redfish fishery to Qalipu First Nation. We have strived to ensure a deep understanding of the principles of reconciliation and our constitutional right to have primary access to fish resources immediately adjacent to our QFN communities. Qalipu First Nation was among the few, if not the only, First Nation participants in the Gulf experimental redfish fishery over the past few years. No other Indigenous organization in Atlantic Canada or Quebec has demonstrated an interest or the capacity to participate.

Regretfully, Qalipu First Nation's effort to work with DFO to re-establish this fishery appears to have been completely disregarded.

We currently face a situation where offshore entities effectively hold sole control over access to this resource, leaving all other inshore participants largely excluded from participating in this fishery. Our expectation was that you would provide significant access to only those Indigenous communities who hold communal commercial licenses, traditionally participated in the redfish fishery, own licenses, and boats and employ professional Indigenous harvesters with access to established redfish processing plants. Instead, this announcement will create an insignificant Indigenous bank of resources to be spread amongst an estimated forty Bands. As the vast majority of these organizations have no historical attachment to either redfish or any other commercial fishery, there is little doubt most of this resource will be offered to the offshore fleet for a token royalty.

The redfish policy announcement poses alarming questions about the government's approach to long-term responsible fisheries management and its commitment to Indigenous reconciliation. On behalf of Qalipu First Nation's 25,000 members, I have to stress in the strongest terms that this decision seriously jeopardizes the livelihoods of countless Indigenous fishers. It also fundamentally undermines our faith in the government's responsibility to First Nation organizations and their efforts to build sustainable, economically vibrant communities through the reconciliation process.

I urge you to reconsider this announcement and prioritize the adoption of a redfish allocation share policy which accentuates an inshore and Indigenous-centered fishery as its primary objective. Qalipu First Nation also formally requests an immediate, in-person meeting with you to discuss this policy framework in greater detail.

Sincerely,

40(1)



Jenny Brake

Interim Chief, Qalipu First Nation First Nation

cc. Andrew Furey, Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador; Elvis Loveless, Minister of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture of Newfoundland and Labrador; MP Gudie Hutchings, Minister responsible for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, Minister of Rural Economic Development; Gerry Byrne, Minister of Immigration, Population Growth and Skills; Jason Spingle, Secretary-Treasurer Fish, Food and Allied Workers Union; Qalipu First Nation Band Council; John Davis, CEO Qalipu Holdings LP; Charles Pender, Band Manager



February 7th, 2024

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Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard
200 Kent St Station 15N100
Ottawa ON K1A 0E6

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You can imagine our shock on January 26th, when you announced that the vast majority of the 25,000mt allocation would go to interests in Nova Scotia and Quebec, primarily the offshore fleet. Nearly 50 years ago, your predecessor, Hon. Romeo LeBlanc, banned offshore vessels from the Gulf. This was due to the vast amount of resources they harvested to the point of stock depletion with no economic benefit to the thousands of inshore harvesters and plant workers who lived along the coastline closest to the fish stock. Of the many stakeholders who participated in the redfish consultations in recent years, only a professional lobby representing the offshore fleet advocated the return of these large vessels. This is quite a policy reversal.

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Numerous enterprise owners as well as hundreds of fish plant workers are Qalipu First Nation members, with a longstanding, deep attachment to this fishery that spans generations. We have articulated to your predecessors and senior officials the intrinsic importance of the redfish fishery to Qalipu First Nation. We have strived to ensure a deep understanding of the principles of reconciliation and our constitutional right to have primary access to fish resources immediately adjacent to our QFN communities. Qalipu First

Nation was among the few, if not the only, First Nation participants in the Gulf experimental redfish fishery over the past few years. No other Indigenous organization in Atlantic Canada or Quebec has demonstrated an interest or the capacity to participate.

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The redfish policy announcement poses alarming questions about the government's approach to long-term responsible fisheries management and its commitment to Indigenous reconciliation. On behalf of Qalipu First Nation's 25,000 members, I have to stress in the strongest terms that this decision seriously jeopardizes the livelihoods of countless Indigenous fishers. It also fundamentally undermines our faith in the government's responsibility to First Nation organizations and their efforts to build sustainable, economically vibrant communities through the reconciliation process.

I urge you to reconsider this announcement and prioritize the adoption of a redfish allocation share policy which accentuates an inshore and Indigenous-centered fishery as its primary objective. Qalipu First Nation also formally requests an immediate, in-person meeting with you to discuss this policy framework in greater detail.

Sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box redacting the signature of Jenny Brake.

Jenny Brake
Interim Chief, Qalipu First Nation First Nation

cc. Andrew Furey, Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador; Elvis Loveless, Minister of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture of Newfoundland and Labrador; MP Gudie Hutchings, Minister responsible for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, Minister of Rural Economic Development; Gerry Byrne, Minister of Immigration, Population Growth and Skills; Jason Spingle, Secretary-Treasurer Fish, Food and Allied Workers Union; Qalipu First Nation Band Council; John Davis, CEO Qalipu Holdings LP; Charles Pender, Band Manager

From: Byrne, Gerry
Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2024 3:22 PM
To: thebroadcast@cbc.ca
Subject: Fwd: Concerns about recent announcement regarding redfish quota allocation
Attachments: image001.png, Letter to Minister Lebouthillier_February 7, 2024..pdf

[For this attachment please see pgs. 4-5, and it is included in the email below.](#)

CBC has obtained...no reference please.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Jenny Brake <j.brake@qalipu.ca>
Date: February 7, 2024 at 3:06:32 PM NST
To: dfo.minister-ministre.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca, diane.lebouthillier@parl.gc.ca
Cc: Premier of NL <Premier@gov.nl.ca>, "Loveless, Elvis" <ElvisLoveless@gov.nl.ca>, FFAMinister <FFAMinister@gov.nl.ca>, gudie.hutchings@parl.gc.ca, "Byrne, Gerry" <GerryByrne@gov.nl.ca>, jspingle@ffaw.ca, Chief and Council <chiefandcouncil@qalipu.ca>, John Davis <john.davis@qalipudevelopment.com>, Charles Pender <cpender@qalipu.ca>
Subject: Concerns about recent announcement regarding redfish quota allocation

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

February 7th, 2024

Hon. Diane Lebouthillier, PC
Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard
200 Kent St Station 15N100
Ottawa ON K1A 0E6

Dear Minister:

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nearly eight years ago. We have been conscientious and eager participants to provide valuable input which would lead to the re-opening of this crucial fishery in a balanced and equitable manner.

You can imagine our shock on January 26th, when you announced that the vast majority of the 25,000mt allocation would go to interests in Nova Scotia and Quebec, primarily the offshore fleet. Nearly 50 years ago, your predecessor, Hon. Romeo LeBlanc, banned offshore vessels from the Gulf. This was due to the vast amount of resources they harvested to the point of stock depletion with no economic benefit to the thousands of inshore harvesters and plant workers who lived along the coastline closest to the fish stock. Of the many stakeholders who participated in the redfish consultations in recent years, only a professional lobby representing the offshore fleet advocated the return of these large vessels. This is quite a policy reversal.

Qalipu First Nation has consistently put forward our request for a specific allocation based purely on the long-established principles of adjacency and historical attachment. Redfish has been one of the backbones of the commercial fishery on the Gulf coast of Newfoundland for more than a hundred years, well before confederation with Canada.

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Regretfully, Qalipu First Nation's effort to work with DFO to re-establish this fishery appears to have been completely disregarded.

We currently face a situation where offshore entities effectively hold sole control over access to this resource, leaving all other inshore participants largely excluded from participating in this fishery. Our expectation was that you would provide significant access to only those Indigenous communities who hold communal commercial licenses, traditionally participated in the redfish fishery, own licenses, and boats and employ professional Indigenous harvesters with access to established redfish processing plants. Instead, this announcement will create an insignificant Indigenous bank of resources to be spread amongst an estimated forty Bands. As the vast majority of these organizations have no historical attachment to either redfish or any other commercial fishery, there is little doubt most of this resource will be offered to the offshore fleet for a token royalty.

The redfish policy announcement poses alarming questions about the government's approach to long-term responsible fisheries management and its commitment to Indigenous reconciliation. On behalf of Qalipu First Nation's 25,000 members, I have to stress in the strongest terms that this decision seriously jeopardizes the livelihoods of countless Indigenous fishers. It also fundamentally

undermines our faith in the government's responsibility to First Nation organizations and their efforts to build sustainable, economically vibrant communities through the reconciliation process.

I urge you to reconsider this announcement and prioritize the adoption of a redfish allocation share policy which accentuates an inshore and Indigenous-centered fishery as its primary objective. Qalipu First Nation also formally requests an immediate, in-person meeting with you to discuss this policy framework in greater detail.

Sincerely,

40(1)



From: Byrne, Gerry <GerryByrne@gov.nl.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2024 8:49 PM
To: Gerry Byrne
Subject: Redfish

Who gets first crack at these fish? Here I must say that I have a clear bias for the inshore fisherman. Not because of some romantic regard, not because of his picture on the calendars, but because he can not travel far after fish, because he depends on fishing for his income, because his community in turn depends on his fishery being protected.

Who said these words?

Hon. Romeo LeBlanc, Liberal Minister of Fisheries and Oceans 1977 in a speech to the Rotary Club of St. Johns explaining his decision to ban offshore vessels from outside of the Gulf of St Lawrence from being allowed to fish inside of the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

This week, I will put forward evidence that Offshore Factory Vessels and Companies do NOT have historical attachment to gulf Redfish and hasnt had it in 50+ years.

Reaction to Fridays Redfish quota allocations to Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, PEI and Newfoundland and Labrador are not being well received here on the west coast or by informed conservationists. The unfortunate capacity increase that Ottawa has re-created will likely come back to haunt us all again in a way no different than Northern Cod.

Whats the fuss over this Redfish, anyway?

Heres what all the fuss is about and it deserves to be fussed over!

This is the first time in 30 years that DFO has opened a groundfish fishery that had been previously closed.

Redfish in the Gulf of St Lawrence closed in 1995, just a few years after the complete collapse of Northern Cod, the groundfish resource which was, arguably, the greatest single source of protein on the planet.

DFOs opening of Gulf Redfish was widely anticipated. Biomass of the resource has grown exponentially, arising from three particularly productive year classes; 2011, 12 and 13.

As such, all of us who have been following this were anticipating that DFO would put on full display for everyone to see all of the knowledge, wisdom and energy it acquired about good conservation and stewardship learned from its investigation of federal groundfish mis-management of the 1980s and 1990s.

What we learned is that the federal department of Fisheries and Oceans is intellectually and morally bankrupt. It has no capacity to understand even basic concepts of conservation, stewardship or fair decision making.

In my opinion, the storyline that should capture todays Redfish advisory meeting is a straightforward one.

To those who have time on their hands or a special interest in this, read on

In the 1970s, fishable redfish biomass grew exponentially from the pulse of two strong year classes from the late 1950s. (Redfish take 10 plus years to reach a marketable size and also equally long to reach sexual maturity to replace itself). This biomass pulse led to a massive drive by fishing interests in all five eastern Canadian provinces to build plants, build boats and to compete for the fish. Full Canadianization of the gulf of St Lawrence fishery in 1977 aided this policy-led investment.

By 1976, however, the impacts of this over-capitalization became clear when these two year classes from 1950s were fished hard with limited recruitment proceeding them. Quotas dropped.

Fortunately, recruitment from some singular 1970s year classes mitigated this drop and by the time the mid-1980s rolled around, the consequence to commercial fishing and a risk of closure was lessened. Life went on.

By 1995, however, there were no saviour year classes - the pulse of redfish that seemed to appear every ten or 15 years did not occur

were no where to be found. Like the 1980s, a Hail-Mary pulse was needed to salvage the fishery and feed the enormous appetite created by the bloated capacity of factory trawlers and fishplants in every port.

By 1995, Redfish in the gulf of St Lawrence collapsed and went into a moratorium that lasted 30 years.

DFO has had 30 years to reflect on what over-capacity can do to a resource and what the insatiable appetite to feed this capacity can do to a stock.

This insatiable appetite for fish is created by the need to keep the lenders for the boats and the plants fed with cash.

And so, during this 30 year period, natural selection - economic natural selection - took its course. Plants were burned or fell down, factory freezer trawlers were scrapped and plant workers aged out and were never replaced with a new generation of worker.

The one exception to this is the west coast of Newfoundland. Here is something interesting to point out.

Redfish has a sister fishery; a similar high volume, relatively low value fish that is difficult to market; the sister fishery to redfish (even though redfish is a groundfish and different biology) are pelagics - herring and mackerel.

Freezing capacity is the real driver to pelagics as it will be for the processing of redfish. Very little redfish in the Gulf today will ever be filleted. It will be sold head on frozen whole. Its too small to fillet.

Let no one bullshit otherwise.

The Barry Group on the west coast, likeem or not, have been in the herring business for four generations. They have maintained a steady business in herring and mackerel and in redfish to the extent that it was available. Interestingly enough, fishermen from other provinces who had test fisheries for redfish have sold their fish to Barrys for processing. Barrys plant workers stayed active, boats continued to work.

Today, redfish in the gulf is being blessed with a strong pulse from three year classes from 2011, 2012 and 2013. Biomass from these three year classes have created a biomass bonanza. Thats been the story of redfish since time immemorial.

So today, with all that DFO knows, is it smart to allocate resource to offshore companies that have no boats to fish this resource, no plants to process it, no workers to work in them, no high-volume freezing capacity needed to market it and, in the process tell them now is great time to go and build factory trawler boats in the dockyards of the former Soviet Union, build more plants and bring in temporary foreign workers to work them and and just like the days of old taxpayers will give you \$50 million from the Atlantic Fisheries Fund to do it.

Instead of creating monsters that will need to be fed, isnt it smarter to use the existing Otter Trawl fleet of the gulf who have proven ability to catch this and who are now starving due to the bloom of redfish that are devouring their shrimp resource - redfish love plankton and plankton-like creatures).

Use these idle boats and the plants designed for high volume fisheries that are already located and active on the shores of the Gulf of St Lawrence - in western Newfoundland - to process this resource and employ the local indigenous plant workers who make up 70 % of the plants workforce rather than temporary foreign workers?

Thats the truth that should be debated.

To those following the recent Redfish allocation in the Gulf of St Lawrence, this will be of interest to you.

In 1981, DFO and the federal Liberal government released Toward a Policy for the Management of Gulf Groundfish.

This policy document laid out future access criteria for cod and for redfish in the Gulf of St Lawrence.

The policy prioritized future access as follows:

- (1) For cod, fixed gear takes precedence;
- (2) For Redfish, the Otter Trawl fleet less than 100 feet in length based in Gulf ports is the priority;

(3) should any Redfish become available surplus to the catching capacity of the Otter Trawl fleet, then it can be allocated to others.

The Discussion Paper also spelled out the firm position that constructing new harvesting or processing capacity was inherently dangerous to conservation. The paper went at length to describe the needs of the current fleet of boats in the Gulf and to keep decision making focused on them.

Dr. Scott Parsons, former assistant deputy minister of science at DFO described the impact of this policy in his epic tomb, Management of Marine Fisheries in Canada:

This policy set the stage for allocating Gulf groundfish over the next decade

What happened in 2024 is a betrayal to all that has become known about groundfish conservation.

The 2017 Redfish Promise What was the point of it?!?

In 2017, the Minister Fisheries and Oceans, Hon. Dominic LeBlanc, Qalipu First Nation Chief, Brendon Sheppard, and the Barry Group of Companies who represent the best interests of the fishplants and the indigenous fishplant workers of Curling, Benoit's Cove, Cox's Cove as well as the groundfish/pelagics enterprises of the Bay of Islands region signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the two governments and BGI guaranteeing the west coast of Newfoundland and the Qalipu First Nation membership with preferred access to Gulf Redfish.

A special ceremony was held. Ottawa promised that the west coast of Newfoundland including the groundfish only vessels and the inshore 4R Shrimp Fleet would be prioritized in the future resource allocation. This promise was based on adjacency, based on Truth and Reconciliation and based on the best prospects for resource conservation by way of preventing an unnecessary, massive buildup of factory freezer vessels and brand new plants.

This federal promise was broken in full on January 26, 2024

It can be difficult to make sense of it all!

It would be understandable if you feel this way about Ottawa's decision around Gulf redfish.

Ottawa and the federal cabinet say history is the sole driver of all resource allocation decisions. History.

Then why have a federal fisheries department at all then? Have a group of three people do the math and make every decision. Done.

Why not? Because that would be stupid.

To loosely quote the current Prime Minister, this is the 21st century not the 20th. Conservation must be the 21st century priority.

Allocating redfish, or any fish for that matter, to offshore companies who don't have trawlers to catch it or plants to process it means that more capacity - new boats, new plants - will be built by the offshore in order to come back into the fishery. This increase in capacity creates an insatiable demand for more, and more and more fish. And this leads to the beginning of the end.

Think this is not solid thinking? On Monday of this week, the federal minister of Fisheries and Oceans, trying to ease the legitimate concerns of the 90 existing inshore boats of the Gulf of St Lawrence - all of who will get the equivalent of just half a day's fishing, half a trip, from the 10% of the quota they have been assigned - reassured the inshore fleet by saying I may raise the quota from 25,000t to 75,000t and 10% of 75,000 tonnes is better than 10% of 25,000t isn't it! Avoid mathematical short cuts of the present and remember

Ottawa can give out fish like it prints money (my words not hers.)

And so, the cycle begins solve the political problem with political fish.

And so, here is the 21st century solution which has totally escaped the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans:

Fully use the existing capacity in the Gulf of St Lawrence before promoting a massive ballooning of more, new capacity - new factory

trawlers, new plants new everything.

Use what you have first. Dont create the insatiable appetite to feed new capacity with more and more and more fish. Stick with conservation.

History is not 21st century knowledge. In the wake of the groundfish collapse of Atlantic Canada in 1993 including Gulf redfish in 1995, being a slave to history is to be a slave to failure.

The same fleet that destroyed the fishery should not be the fleet that gets first and best access today.

But, for those demanding history be respected, remember this; In 1976, Romeo LeBlanc banned vessels from outside the Gulf from fishing redfish setting a floor that the first 30,000t was be granted exclusively to Gulf based boats. Federal DFO minister Pierre DeBane strengthened this historical share for the gulf-based boats by increasing that threshold to 40,000t. How is that for a history lesson.

The real history of the lessons learned from Gulf redfish resource?

Conservation first;
Adjacency first;
Existing capacity first;

These are the principles DFO has abandoned.

This is why I vote non-confidence in DFO to manage this resource.

Historic Attachment

Is

Colonial Attachment

Federal government bypasses Indigenous Reconciliation in favour of corporate interests when it comes to Gulf Redfish.

History has its place in the decision making matrix but conservation must be first. And conservation tells us, use existing capacity before creating new capacity.

Did you know there are five indigenous enterprises in the Gulf, in the Bay of Islands in particular, completely dependent on groundfish who only get a half of one trip of redfish in a year while offshore companies get the bulk?

Is that right?

No its not.

Sent from my iPhone

Joyce, Cindy

From: Brian Dicks [REDACTED] [40\(1\)](#)
Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2024 8:43 AM
To: FFAMinister
Subject: Fwd: Gulf of St Lawrence Redfish

Fyi, see below.

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

From: Brian Dicks [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2024 8:39:21 a.m.
To: guy gallant [REDACTED]; ElvisLoveless@gov.nl.ca <ElvisLoveless@gov.nl.ca>; Goudie Hutchings [REDACTED]; Bill Barry <bbarry@barrgroupinc.com>; j.brake@qalipu.ca <j.brake@qalipu.ca>; GerryByrne@gov.nl.ca <GerryByrne@gov.nl.ca>
Subject: Re: Gulf of St Lawrence Redfish

Good morning, Guy,

Thank you for this letter, clearly outlining the dire situation imposed upon you and other Indigenous enterprise holders in light of the recent redfish allocation.

You have my full support and I look forward to our meeting to address and resolve this imbalance.

Regards,
 Brian

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

From: guy gallant [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2024 10:09:46 p.m.
To: ElvisLoveless@gov.nl.ca <ElvisLoveless@gov.nl.ca>; Goudie Hutchings [REDACTED]; GerryByrne@gov.nl.ca <GerryByrne@gov.nl.ca>; Bill Barry <bbarry@barrgroupinc.com>; brian-dicks [REDACTED]; j.brake@qalipu.ca <j.brake@qalipu.ca>
Subject: FW: Gulf of St Lawrence Redfish

Sent from my Galaxy

----- Original message -----

From: guy gallant [REDACTED]
 Date: 2024-02-07 9:43 p.m. (GMT-03:30)
 To: ElvisLoveless@gov.nl.ca
 Subject: Gulf of St Lawrence Redfish

Greetings Mr Loveless, My name is Guy Gallant I am 4r enterprise owner from the bay of islands and a member of the Qualipu first nation's and also a member of the ffaw. I am writing to request a meeting with you and Mr Byrne and whomever you wish to attend, when you come to corner brook on Feb 19 and 20, as I have requested the help of Mr Byrne (and he has graciously accepted) on the subject of the gulf redfish and how it is impacting a small number of indigenous enterprise holders that are not being supported by the ffaw, of which we are all members of too, however they are withholding information from you that I feel you should be aware of before all final decisions are to be made, you see that the ffaw are fighting for the shrimp harvesters without even as much as a mention or side note of us, we were the only ones fishing redfish in the gulf for a number of years because the rest of the fleet up north were occupied with the more lucrative shrimp fishery. We think they should also be putting our concerns on their agenda. Our small portion of the fleet are fully dependent upon the redfish for our enterprise. We were denied access to the shrimp because the fleet down on the northern peninsula with the help of the ffaw formed a committee called north of 50 30, for the sole purpose to keep us from obtaining access to the shrimp. We feel that if any extra allocation be to those of us that have no access to shrimp first and any extra after that can be given to the shrimp fleet. The shrimp fleet has no justification of asking for a separate allocation that takes from the overall TAC when they have the same access to the inshore allocation as we do. We do not have shrimp and are solely dependent on the groundfish/redfish But this will leave them who already has more than us because of the shrimp with a larger portion of the TAC, and an extra 10% that I can't access because they discriminated against the 4 or 5 enterprises back in the 90's. I asked Mr Byrne if he could arrange for you and I to meet and he encouraged me to reach out to you through email and noted to me that he would give his support to the request.

I leave you with my gratitude to you for taking the time to review this note and with the hope of meeting with you soon, as this matter is very important to us and our communities and as you know time is running out before decisions are to be made. Furthermore I will be reaching out to Mr Barry,(Barry group) to whom I owe my longevity in this fishery to, Mr Dicks and Jenny Brake of the Qualipu first nation's to attend as well, of which I know I have support of in this matter.

Once again thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Kindest regards,

Guy...

guygallantjr [REDACTED] [40\(1\)](#)

From: Byrne, Gerry <GerryByrne@gov.nl.ca>
Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2024 9:51 AM
To: Gerry Byrne
Subject: Redfish 2

Good morning - some food for thought from our discussion yesterday evening.

You are being asked to accept a fraction of a quota that, by rights, should be yours, in total.

You are being offered table scraps, when the main course is being served up elsewhere for a grand feast, at your expense.

This is a nothing more than theft of your resource dressed up and presented as a grand gift.

They are expecting you to be grateful.

No thanks. Return to Sender.
Sent from my iPhone

From: Tompkins, John
Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2024 11:08 AM
To: Byrne, Gerry
Cc: Chaytor, Kerry
Subject: FAW demo
Attachments: KMs - Redfish - NTV - Feb 7 2024.docx, Response from Minister Loveless to Minister Lebouthillier - Proposed Revised Unit 1 Redfish Allocation Regime.pdf

Minister, FYI sending attached from FFA
Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Shea, Erin" <ErinShea@gov.nl.ca>
Date: February 8, 2024 at 10:26:58 AM NST
To: "Tompkins, John" <jtompkins@gov.nl.ca>
Subject: RE: FAW demo

I'm attaching the KMs and also the letter to DFO that our EA sent to her EA yesterday - it's in her MHA capacity so your min may be interested in it as well.

Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture Redfish Allocations February 7, 2024

Issue:

A recent announcement by the federal minister of fisheries detailed how they expect to open the redfish fishery. The Provincial Government subsequently issued a news release expressing concern over the commercial redfish quota share allocation for this province.

Questions:

- Why are you concerned with the commercial redfish quota allocation?
- How will you help ensure NL benefits from reopening the commercial redfish fishery?

Key Messages

- We are pleased to see a reopening of a commercial redfish fishery after so many years of closure. This represents new opportunities for both our harvesting and processing sectors.
- We are extremely disappointed with our province's share of the commercial redfish quota.
- DFO failed to appropriately take these principles into consideration in making their decision.
- We will continue to impress upon the Federal Government the need to obtain our fair share.
- We advised the Federal Government that redfish quota allocations should consider:
 - Newfoundland and Labrador's historical attachment to the fishery,
 - the longstanding principle of adjacency
 - reconciliation with Indigenous peoples.

Secondary Messages

- When Minister Loveless met with the federal Minister, they agreed on the need for federal management decisions to support the sustainability of rural communities and families.
- We have written the federal minister to express concern, request re-consideration of redfish quota allocations, and present options to support impacted shrimp harvesters.
- Given the significant quota reduction in Shrimp Fishing Area 8, we are calling for an increase in the redfish quota share for our shrimp harvesters in this province as well as consideration of a licence buyback program.
- Officials from our Government are actively engaged with the Redfish Advisory Committee that is meeting in the coming weeks to determine quota allocations for each fleet, establish management measures, and consult on a Total Allowable Catch for this fishing season.



Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture
Office of the Minister

February 2, 2024

DOC/2023/01124-04

The Honourable Diane Lebouthillier, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard
Fisheries and Oceans Canada, 200 Kent Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0E6
min@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Dear Minister Lebouthillier:

I am writing to follow up on our recent meeting in St. John's where we discussed fishery and aquaculture issues that are important to Newfoundland and Labrador. I acknowledge your recent correspondence regarding the input provided by the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador on a new access and allocation regime for the re-opening of a commercial Redfish fishery in Unit 1.

At our meeting we discussed the need for fair and equitable treatment for Newfoundland and Labrador in all federal fisheries and aquaculture decisions impacting harvesters and processors in this province. The re-opening of the Unit 1 Redfish fishery presented an opportunity to ensure Newfoundland and Labrador received a fair share of the allocation based on its historical attachment to the Redfish fishery and the long-standing principle of adjacency in fisheries management decisions. I am very disappointed that the provincial allocation for Newfoundland and Labrador did not increase to reflect these principles. Officials from my department will be actively engaged in the Redfish Advisory Committee to ensure our interests are represented as this exciting restart to the Redfish fishery in Unit 1 unfolds.

The Province supports a share of the allocation being provided for Indigenous peoples and shrimp harvesters. The announced reduction in Total Allowable Catch for Gulf shrimp is of great concern for shrimp harvesters in our province. I appreciate the intent of the 10% Redfish allocation for shrimp harvesters to help alleviate some of the impact of the Total Allowable Catch reduction. But given the number of harvesters who have licences for Shrimp Fishing Area 8, I am requesting your immediate consideration of an additional increase of the allocation impacted by the decline in the shrimp resource supplemented by a buyback program for harvesters who are able to leave the industry. This has an added benefit for the remaining harvesters who would have access to a greater share of the remaining quota.

.../2

As the Minister of Fisheries, Forestry, and Agriculture, I am committed to working with you to advance our common goals. At our meeting we talked about our shared vision, the importance of the fishery to sustaining the way of life of rural communities and families. As I stated in our meeting, which I think bears repeating, in order to do that it requires our fair share. I believe a positive response to my requests would support communities and families throughout Newfoundland and Labrador, and particularly those on the Great Northern Peninsula.

The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador will continue to collaborate with Fisheries and Oceans Canada as we work towards a modern, sustainably managed Redfish commercial fishery in the Gulf of St. Lawrence that will benefit the people and communities of our province.

I ask for your consideration of my requests and a timely response. As always, I am available to continue our discussions on this important matter.

Sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction box covers the signature area, obscuring the name and any handwritten notes.

HONOURABLE ÉLVIS LOVELESS, MHA
District of Fortune Bay – Cape La Hune
Minister

- c. Honourable Dr. Andrew Furey, Premier
Honourable Gudie Hutchings, Minister of Rural Economic Development and
Minister responsible for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency
Honourable Krista Lynn Howell, Minister of Education

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 9, 2024 2:01 PM
To: Byrne, Gerry
Subject: [REDACTED]

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Gerry , It was great again chatting with you [REDACTED] and you are doing a great job speaking for NL fishermen attaining more redfish allocations.

From: Joy, Carla
Sent: Monday, February 19, 2024 10:47 AM
To: Rideout, Lynne
Subject: FW: Email from Guy Gallant / Gulf of St Lawrence Redfish / Requesting a meeting with the Minister when he is out in Corner Brook on Feb 18
Attachments: Email from Guy Gallant Gulf of St Lawrence Redfish Requesting a meeting with the Minister when he is out in Corner Brook on Feb 18.MSG, Email from Guy Gallant Gulf of St Lawrence Redfish Requesting a meeting with the Minister when he is out in Corner Brook on Feb 18.tr5
[For the attachment referenced, please see pg. 15](#)

Here is what I sent to Sheri. Please talk to her as she was sending it on to Minister Byrne.

-----Original Message-----

From: Joy, Carla
Sent: Friday, February 16, 2024 2:35 PM
To: Kieley, Sheri <SheriKieley@gov.nl.ca>
Subject: Email from Guy Gallant / Gulf of St Lawrence Redfish / Requesting a meeting with the Minister when he is out in Corner Brook on Feb 18

-----< HPE Records Manager record Information >-----

Record Number : COR/2024/00422
Title : Email from Guy Gallant / Gulf of St Lawrence Redfish / Requesting a meeting with the Minister when he is out in Corner Brook on Feb 18

From: Kieley, Sheri
Sent: Monday, February 19, 2024 10:48 AM
To: Rideout, Lynne
Subject: FW: Email from Guy Gallant / Gulf of St Lawrence Redfish / Requesting a meeting with the Minister when he is out in Corner Brook on Feb 18
Attachments: Email from Guy Gallant Gulf of St Lawrence Redfish Requesting a meeting with the Minister when he is out in Corner Brook on Feb 18.MSG, Email from Guy Gallant Gulf of St Lawrence Redfish Requesting a meeting with the Minister when he is out in Corner Brook on Feb 18.tr5
[For the attachment referenced, please see pg. 15](#)

FYI - I have not anything back from the Minister on this.

Sheri

-----Original Message-----

From: Kieley, Sheri
Sent: Friday, February 16, 2024 2:50 PM
To: Byrne, Gerry <GerryByrne@gov.nl.ca>
Subject: FW: Email from Guy Gallant / Gulf of St Lawrence Redfish / Requesting a meeting with the Minister when he is out in Corner Brook on Feb 18

Good Afternoon Minister,

I just received a call from Minister Loveless' Secretary regarding the attached email. She is making arrangements for the meeting and was asking about your interest/availability.

[Non Responsive](#)

Kind regards,

Sheri

-----Original Message-----

From: Joy, Carla <carlajoy@gov.nl.ca>
Sent: Friday, February 16, 2024 2:35 PM
To: Kieley, Sheri <SheriKieley@gov.nl.ca>
Subject: Email from Guy Gallant / Gulf of St Lawrence Redfish / Requesting a meeting with the Minister when he is out in Corner Brook on Feb 18

-----< HPE Records Manager record Information >-----

Record Number : COR/2024/00422
Title : Email from Guy Gallant / Gulf of St Lawrence Redfish / Requesting a meeting with the Minister when he is out in Corner Brook on Feb 18

From: Rideout, Lynne
Sent: Monday, February 19, 2024 12:05 PM
To: Byrne, Gerry
Subject: RE: HPE Records Manager Correspondence : COR-2024-00113 : Email from Guy Gallant / to Minister Elvis Loveless / Requesting a meeting with Minister Loveless and Minister Byrne / Regarding the Gulf of St Lawrence Redfish

Thank you, I will advise FFA.

Lynne

-----Original Message-----

From: Byrne, Gerry <GerryByrne@gov.nl.ca>
Sent: Monday, February 19, 2024 12:03 PM
To: Rideout, Lynne <LynneRideout@gov.nl.ca>
Subject: Re: HPE Records Manager Correspondence : COR-2024-00113 : Email from Guy Gallant / to Minister Elvis Loveless / Requesting a meeting with Minister Loveless and Minister Byrne / Regarding the Gulf of St Lawrence Redfish

I am available at any time

Sent from my iPhone

> On Feb 19, 2024, at 11:03 AM, Rideout, Lynne <LynneRideout@gov.nl.ca> wrote:
>
> Good morning Minister,
>
> Minister Loveless' office has reached out regarding your availability to attend a meeting with Minister Loveless?
>
> Kind Regards,
>
> Lynne
>
> -----< HPE Records Manager record Information >-----
>
> Record Number : COR-2024-00113
> Title : Email from Guy Gallant / to Minister Elvis Loveless / Requesting a meeting with Minister Loveless and Minister Byrne / Regarding the Gulf of St Lawrence Redfish
>
> <Email from Guy Gallant to Minister Elvis Loveless ~ Minister Loveless and Minister Byrne Regarding the Gulf of St Lawrence Redfish.MSG>