

1 of 175

From: Courtney Langille <CLangille@ffaw.ca>
Sent: Monday, March 4, 2024 1:52 PM
To: Davis, Bernard
Cc: Simms, Randy, Hatfield, Elizabeth, Loveless, Elvis, Chippett, Jamie, Hanlon, Bren M., Barry, Sean P, Carter, Ken
Subject: FFAW-Unifor Letter Re. Arbitration
Attachments: MINISTER DAVIS_2024.03.04.pdf

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.

Minister Davis,

Thank you for your time and attention during this morning's meeting. As indicated, I am sending an electronic copy of the letter requesting to expedite the arbitration process that was included in the package of materials for discussion today.

We look forward to the upcoming meeting on the 22nd together with Minister Parsons.

Thank you,

Courtney Langille

Communications and Government Relations

Fish, Food, and Allied Workers Union (FFAW-Unifor)

(709) 576-7276

(709) 693-8454

www.ffaw.ca



PO Box 10, Station C
368 Hamilton Avenue, 2nd Floor
St. John's NL A1C 5H5



Tel: 709.576.7276
Fax: 709.576.1962
Web: www.iffaw.nf.ca

GREG PRETTY
President

JASON SPINGLE
Secretary-Treasurer

March 4, 2024

Honourable Bernard Davis
Minister of Labour
Confederation Building
P.O. Box 8700
St. John's, NL A1B 4J6

Minister Davis,

Please accept this letter as an urgent request to expedite the arbitration process for the fishing industry, so to allow for a fair and effective labour management process in an already contentious business sector.

As discussed in many previous meetings and correspondence, the current system and the associated delays lead to grievances going unresolved for multiple fishing seasons. A protracted arbitration process spanning more than one fishing season impacts labour relations and the ability for parties to effectively bargain for fish prices. Parties are unable to bargain in good faith and with a full picture of economic and/or financial status without having important grievances from previous seasons resolved.

As you know, financial pressures surrounding the drastic decline in prices combined with corresponding increases in interest rates, fuel, and supplies have placed fish harvesters in a very precarious situation. Millions of dollars remain on the line with unresolved grievances, and this is not unacceptable nor indicative of a labour relations process that works for the unique and significant fishing industry.

It's therefore imperative, Minister Davis, that you do your utmost in your capacity as Minister and as a regulator to ensure that, going forward, the arbitration process is expedited to ensure that the inherently challenging price negotiations can proceed without undue hindrance.

Sincerely,

40(1)



Signed by Greg Pretty
(2024/03/04) Verify with
verifio.com or Adobe Reader.

Greg Pretty
President, FFAW-Unifor

CC: Honourable Elvis Loveless, Minister of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture
Jamie Chippett, Deputy Minister, Fisheries, Forestry, and Agriculture
Brendan Hanlon, Assistant Deputy Minister, Fisheries, Forestry, and Agriculture
Ken Carter, Director of Policy, Executive Council
Sean Barry, Director of Seafood Marketing and Support Service

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From: Chippett, Jamie
Sent: Monday, March 4, 2024 1:57 PM
To: Shea, Erin
Subject: FW: FFAW-Unifor Letter Re. Arbitration
Attachments: MINISTER DAVIS_2024.03.04.pdf

[Attachment Previously Included](#)

From: Courtney Langille <CLangille@ffaw.ca>
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Cc: Simms, Randy <randysimms@gov.nl.ca>; Hatfield, Elizabeth <ElizabethHatfield@gov.nl.ca>; Loveless, Elvis <ElvisLoveless@gov.nl.ca>; Chippett, Jamie <JamieChippett@gov.nl.ca>; Hanlon, Bren M. <brenhanlon@gov.nl.ca>; Barry, Sean P <seanbarry@gov.nl.ca>; Carter, Ken <KenCarter@gov.nl.ca>
Subject: FFAW-Unifor Letter Re. Arbitration

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(709) 693-8454

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5 of 175

From: Chippett, Jamie
Sent: Monday, March 4, 2024 1:58 PM
To: Quinlan, Krista, Skinner, Gillian
Subject: FW: FFAW-Unifor Letter Re. Arbitration
Attachments: MINISTER DAVIS_2024.03.04.pdf

[Attachment Previously Included](#)

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Cc: Simms, Randy <randysimms@gov.nl.ca>; Hatfield, Elizabeth <ElizabethHatfield@gov.nl.ca>; Loveless, Elvis <ElvisLoveless@gov.nl.ca>; Chippett, Jamie <JamieChippett@gov.nl.ca>; Hanlon, Bren M. <brenhanlon@gov.nl.ca>; Barry, Sean P <seanbarry@gov.nl.ca>; Carter, Ken <KenCarter@gov.nl.ca>
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To: Shea, Erin
Subject: FW: FFAW-Unifor Letter Re. Arbitration
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Courtney Langille

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7 of 175

From: Renouf, Craig
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2024 12:33 PM
To: Loveless, Elvis
Cc: Chippett, Jamie, Shea, Erin, Baldwin, Paul, Hanlon, Bren M.
Subject: RE: Media Interview Request - HOA Harvester Protest

Ok. Ill give Gary a call and circle back with a telephone number for you.

From: Loveless, Elvis <ElvisLoveless@gov.nl.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2024 12:32 PM
To: Renouf, Craig <CraigRenouf@gov.nl.ca>
Cc: Chippett, Jamie <JamieChippett@gov.nl.ca>; Shea, Erin <ErinShea@gov.nl.ca>; Baldwin, Paul <PaulBaldwin@gov.nl.ca>; Hanlon, Bren M. <brenhanlon@gov.nl.ca>
Subject: Re: Media Interview Request - HOA Harvester Protest

I can do that now.

Elvis Loveless
Minister
Fishery, Forestry & Agriculture
MHA - Fortune Bay - Cape La Hune
709-729-3705 (Office)
709-885-7594 (Work cell)

On Mar 5, 2024, at 11:59 AM, Renouf, Craig <CraigRenouf@gov.nl.ca> wrote:

Hi Minster,

Gary Kean with Saltwire/The Telegram is requesting to speak with you about the protest being held at the Confederation Building today by fish harvesters. If you are able to accommodate we can schedule accordingly. In the meantime we have provided Gary with the audio clip from yesterdays HOA scrum that includes your comments about issues concerning the harvesters.

Thanks,
Craig

Craig Renouf
Media Relations Manager
Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture
709-637-2923 (office)
709-640-6922 (cell)
craigrenouf@gov.nl.ca

8 of 175

From: Loveless, Elvis
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2024 12:51 PM
To: Renouf, Craig
Cc: Chippett, Jamie, Shea, Erin, Baldwin, Paul, Hanlon, Bren M.
Subject: Re: Media Interview Request - HOA Harvester Protest

K

Elvis Loveless
Minister
Fishery, Forestry & Agriculture
MHA - Fortune Bay - Cape La Hune
709-729-3705 (Office)
709-885-7594 (Work cell)

On Mar 5, 2024, at 12:36 PM, Renouf, Craig <CraigRenouf@gov.nl.ca> wrote:

Minister,

40(1)

Gary is available now. He can be reached at [REDACTED]

From: Loveless, Elvis <ElvisLoveless@gov.nl.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2024 12:32 PM
To: Renouf, Craig <CraigRenouf@gov.nl.ca>
Cc: Chippett, Jamie <JamieChippett@gov.nl.ca>; Shea, Erin <ErinShea@gov.nl.ca>; Baldwin, Paul <PaulBaldwin@gov.nl.ca>; Hanlon, Bren M. <brenhanlon@gov.nl.ca>
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Craig

Craig Renouf
Media Relations Manager
Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture
709-637-2923 (office)
709-640-6922 (cell)
craigrenouf@gov.nl.ca

From: Renouf, Craig
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2024 9:15 AM
To: Loveless, Elvis, Chippett, Jamie, Baldwin, Paul, Adams, Blair, Hanlon, Bren M., Balsom, Stephen, Deering, Keith, Shea, Erin, Skinner, Linda
Subject: MORNING MEDIA - March 6, 2024

The Telegram

Harvesters hold rally at Confederation Building

While unhappy with their union, harvesters also want to see more outside buyers permitted and more processing licences issued

The Telegram (St. John's) Updated: 6 Mar 2024 GARY KEAN THE TELEGRAM gary.kean@thewesternstar.com @western_star

CORNER BROOK They may not have gotten the concrete answers they want yet, but snow crab harvesters are not about to give up fighting for their livelihood.

Crab harvesters upset with how negotiations between their union and seafood processors are progressing have been making their presence known at the Confederation Building in St. John's for the last two days, with their numbers growing Tuesday, March 5.

Talks between Ffawunifor and the Association of Seafood Producers (ASP) are ongoing as the two sides try to hammer out a price-setting formula prior to the scheduled start of the crab fishery in early April.

Last year, a dispute over the price offered by processors led to a six-week tie-up of the entire fleet before harvesters finally conceded to the original price of \$2.20 per pound that was offered.

THE ISSUES

While the union and processors have been saying little about the negotiations, harvesters fear Ffaw-unifor will concede a holdback, a percentage of the price paid that will be withheld after the price reaches a certain threshold, but which could be paid after the season ends.

Price is not the sole issue. Harvesters also want to see more outside buyers allowed to purchase product from them and also want the provincial government to issue more processing licences.

MAKING A CASE TO THE PREMIER

A group of harvesters went to the Confederation Building to protest on Monday, March 4, and spoke with Premier Andrew Furey and Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture Minister Elvis Loveless about the situation.

Jason Sullivan, a harvester from Bay Bulls, said the politicians would not make any promises other than that the government would meet with the union and processor representatives to remind them of the urgency of their negotiations.

Even more harvesters returned Tuesday, once again filling most seats in the public gallery of the House of Assembly.

ONE SIDE IS HERE ALREADY

The difficult part of this is (the premier and the minister) say they want to go back to the two sides (union and processors), Sullivan told Saltwire on Tuesday morning as he arrived at the Confederation Building.

Well, one side is here already. The people in there are negotiating something we don't want negotiated.

Sullivan said union members fear their leadership will be worn down and make concessions that harvesters have no appetite for.

While the holdback issue is huge for harvesters and must be settled by the union

and the processors, it is the province that can change regulations to allow more processing licences.

Sullivan said getting a processing licence to open a plant should be no different than someone who invests in a property to open a restaurant getting an inspection and a licence to serve food.

It's as simple as that, he said. Then it's up to you to make a go of it and, if you can't, then you sell your facility to somebody else who probably can.

SPLINTERS IN THE SYSTEM

Loveless, in an interview with Saltwire before the afternoon session of the House of Assembly during which he fielded questions on the fisheries issue from the Opposition said opening a fish plant is not as easy as Sullivan said it is.

The minister is concerned about plants that want a licence but don't have the processing capacity and the impact that could have on its workers.

It's fine to say that (it's easily done), but, just because someone has invested in a plant doesn't mean I have to react to that and give them a licence, said Loveless. I'm being cautious (about) being over-capacitated. We're (risking) taking work from a plant and then people aren't going to have enough work for (employment insurance) and all that.

SPLINTERS IN THE SYSTEM

Processing licences are approved by the minister upon recommendation by the province's Fish Processing Licensing Board, but Loveless said he is not apologetic for not rubber-stamping every recommendation.

I'm going to do my due diligence and want to do that and am going to do that, and I'm not going to apologize to anybody for that,

said Loveless.

He said each faction with a differing opinion of what should be done with the fishery believes government decisions can be easily made, but reconciling all those views is what makes any decision a difficult one that needs careful consideration.

There are so many splinters in the system, it's hard to make a decision and I don't want to be irresponsible because there is next year and there is the year after (to think about), said Loveless.

UNHAPPY WITH CURRENT SYSTEM

Sullivan said the current system favours large multinational corporations like Royal Greenland, which is owned by the government of Greenland and processes seafood caught off Newfoundland and Labrador and not harvesters.

Royal Greenland is a crown corporation from another country that's getting a better benefit from the fishery of Newfoundland than the people in the actual communities, said Sullivan.

As with processing licences, Loveless said the issues of outside buyers and the concentrated buying power of processors is an issue for further discussions with harvesters.

NO EASY FIX

While there may be a deeper delve into corporate concentration, Loveless said he is not sold on outside buyers being the answer. He noted how a recent administration under former fisheries minister Gerry Byrne opened the province's fishery to outside buyers, but not one was interested.

I wish we could find a few buyers from outside of the province who would say they would definitely come into the province, but I don't know if they would, said Loveless, noting outside buyers would need to adhere to Newfoundland and Labrador's legislative regime.

Some harvesters are cemented in the idea that outside buyers would fix everything. We're not there yet. But is it on the table for consideration? Yeah, it is.

MOVEMENT GROWING

John Efford, an enterprise owner from Port de Grave and the son of the former provincial and federal cabinet minister of the same name, argued there are outside buyers willing to come in and they are badly needed in order to foster competition in the industry.

Yes, 100 per cent there are, Efford said. The few companies left in Newfoundland have gobbled up that many smaller companies and shut them down, they cannot even handle the crab fishery, so how are they going to handle all the fisheries that are available to all Newfoundland fish harvesters?

Efford said that despite not yet getting the commitments for change they want, harvesters will continue to maintain a presence at the Confederation Building. He said he has been getting calls and messages from fellow harvesters who have indicated they're willing to come from all across the province to join the impromptu movement.

Hopefully, this is going to get bigger each day and, hopefully, the provincial government will realize they're not dealing with a few loose cannons

here, but they're dealing with a large group who are of the same mind and they have to make some changes here, said Efford.

REIMAGINING THE PROCESS?

Sullivan says the fishery in Newfoundland and Labrador has evolved to a point where how fish is sold has to be reimagined.

He said that was evident last year when harvesters chose not to fish for crab, but eventually ended up going on the water for the same price they had been offered initially.

We've gone back 500 years where you're at the mercy of the merchants because you're told when to go, how much to bring and so on, Sullivan said.

(If most harvesters) wanted to switch buyers right now, they wouldn't be able to because there's no one else to do it. If that's not control, I don't know what is and it's getting worse every year.

UNION RESPONSE

The harvesters union issued a statement Monday saying it wanted to clarify what it described as false rumours about the crab pricing negotiations.

Unfounded and false rumours are currently circulating regarding the FFAW negotiating committee stance on snow crab bargaining, Greg Pretty, FFAW-uniforms president, said in the prepared statement.

Any official updates will, as always, come from the union's official channels.

The negotiations process is still ongoing as we work towards a price to market formula that works for harvesters, with full intention to reach a fair deal and get this season started on time. Spreading misinformation only serves to disrupt industry stability at a time when we must be focused on getting every cent we can for our members.

Big game licence draw open for applications

The Telegram (St. John's) 6 Mar 2024

Newfoundlanders and Labradorians gearing up for the hunting season will be happy to hear that the 2024-25 big game licence draw is underway.

The draw is open to applications until May 3.

The licence will allow hunters to hunt moose, caribou and black bear.

The province is expecting

the moose quota for Newfoundland to be 27,590 licences, including 8,390 either-sex, 8,740 male-only, and 460 not-for-profit licences.

Going into 2024-25, this is a net increase of 15 licences from last year and has been adjusted in 23 moose management areas.

Labrador has 345 licences available for residents in the big game draw, which is an increase of five licences.

The caribou quota in Newfoundland is 583, which includes 373 either-sex and 210 male-only licences. This is an increase of eight licences from last year.

With the initiative to reintroduce Newfoundland woodland caribou on Bell Island and Groias Island, there will be only eight licences for this year.

Applications are available online only, and applicants must have a Wildlife Information Management System account to apply.

To be eligible for the draw, hunters must be a resident over the age of 16 as of Aug. 31, have a Hunter Certificate Number and already completed the Firearms Safety/hunter Education Course or transferred hunting credentials by Nov. 30, 2023.

VOCM

Latest Salmon Stock Assessment For NL Yields Fewer Returns

Mar 6, 2024 | 6:18 AM

Most scheduled salmon rivers in Newfoundland and Labrador saw a drop in returns in the last year, some of which were down considerably.

DFO biologist Nick Kelly provided an update on the Atlantic salmon stock yesterday.

He says environmental factors are playing a role, affecting marine survival. That includes the availability of food sources, says Kelly.

Another significant impact are higher freshwater temperatures, affecting salmon survival out of the ocean.

Ten of the 15 rivers assessed by DFO in Newfoundland were found to be in the critical zone, with just four in the healthy zone.

Three of the four Labrador rivers assessed were also found to be in the critical zone.

NTV

DFO releases latest Atlantic salmon stock assessment

Posted: March 5, 2024 9:45 pm

DFO has released the results from its recent Atlantic salmon stock assessment. It usually conducts a full assessment of salmon stocks every two years, but this one was done because of low river returns in 2023.

<https://ntv.ca/dfo-releases-latest-atlantic-salmon-stock-assessment/>

Applications Open for Big Game License Draw

Posted: March 5, 2024 3:41 pm

By Web Team

Applications are open for the 2024-25 big game license draw. The deadline to apply is May 3.

Applications for resident moose, caribou, black bear and trapper licences are available online only. Eligible hunters and trappers must have a Wildlife Information Management System (WIMS) account to apply for a license.

The 2024-25 moose quota for the island of Newfoundland is 27,590 licences, including 18,390 either-sex, 8,740 male-only, and 460 not-for-profit licences. This is a net increase of 15 licences from 2023-24; however, quotas have been adjusted in 23 moose management areas (MMA). In Labrador, 345 moose licences are available for the resident big game draw, an increase of five licenses.

The caribou quota on the island of Newfoundland is 583, including 373 either-sex and 210 male-only licences, an increase of eight licences from 2023-24. Caribou hunting is prohibited in Labrador.

Due to positive results from an initiative to re-introduce Newfoundland woodland caribou on the Grey Islands (Bell Island and Groias Island), a small quota of eight licences has been set for 2024-25.

To be considered eligible for the 2024 big game license draw, you must:

- Be a resident of Newfoundland and Labrador
- Be at least 16 years of age by August 31, 2024
- Have a Hunter Certificate Number
- Have already completed the Firearms Safety/Hunter Education Course or transferred hunting credentials by November 30, 2023

BayFM

Corner Brook Pulp and Paper applies to harvest trees and build a road in the watershed area

Wednesday, 6 March 2024 07:00

Mayor Jim Parsons says there has been harvesting in the watershed area since the mill started in the 1920 s and the area is about 11,000 hectares with multiple uses allowed in that zone.

The City of Corner Brook has received an application to allow Corner Brook Pulp and Paper to harvest trees and construct a woods road within the watershed area in the Protected Water Supply Area Zone. It s located in the Eastern Lake & Corner Brook Lake vicinity. Mayor Jim Parsons says there has been harvesting in the watershed area since the mill started in the 1920 s and the area is about 11,000 hectares with multiple uses allowed in that zone. Some social media comments say harvesting in the watershed should not be happening. Parsons says this use, as a forestry classification of use, is a Discretionary Use of the City of Corner Brook s Development Regulations for this zone. He says the committee will advise the council with a recommendation after reviewing the request. Comments can be sent to planning@cornerbrook.com.

Headlines

HARVESTERS VISIT HOA GALLERY: For decades they have been trying and failing to find a solution in the snow crab industry. This year the FFAW and the ASP are negotiating. Today some 50 fish harvesters came to the gallery of the House of Assembly. ["Andrew Careen", Harvester from Point Lance]

CBN - St. John's - Fisheries Broadcast @ 06:10:12pm Duration: 00:08:00 Reporter:

Ref Id: k5k-3q5-4

THE HUMAN COST OF CHEAP SEAFOOD: What is the human cost of cheap seafood? ["Ian Urbeaner", Director of the Outlaw Ocean Project]

CBN - St. John's - Fisheries Broadcast @ 06:18:24pm Duration: 00:13:05 Reporter:

Ref Id: S3m-6r6-4

REQUEST TO CUT WOOD NEAR CORNER BROOK'S WATER SUPPLY: Corner Pulp and Paper wants to cut wood near the city's water supply. The company has made the request to the city of Corner Brook and the deadline for public comment is coming up on Thursday. ["Jim Parsons", Mayor]

CBY - Corner Brook - NL Morning @ 07:11:35am Duration: 00:10:11 Reporter:

Ref Id: U7h-2C8-5

STATEMENT FROM CORNER BROOK PULP AND PAPER: Earlier we spoke with the mayor of Corner Brook about a proposal to cut wood in the watershed of the city. Statement from Corner Brook Pulp and Paper is read.

CBY - Corner Brook - NL Morning @ 08:52:09am Duration: 00:02:02 Reporter:

Ref Id: G4Y-6Y9-5

Craig Renouf

Media Relations Manager

Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture

709-637-2923 (office)

709-640-6922 (cell)

craigrenouf@gov.nl.ca

From: [Renouf, Craig](#)
Sent: [Thursday, March 7, 2024 9:39 AM](#)
To: [Loveless, Elvis](#), [Chippett, Jamie](#), [Baldwin, Paul](#), [Hanlon, Bren M.](#), [Adams, Blair](#), [Balsom, Stephen](#), [Shea, Erin](#), [Skinner, Linda](#), [Deering, Keith](#)
Subject: [MORNING MEDIA - March 7, 2024](#)

VOCM

Questions on Crab Fishery Spark Outburst From Harvesters in Gallery

Mar 6, 2024 | 2:46 PM

There was an outburst from the public gallery in the House of Assembly today as politicians debated on issues surrounding a smooth start to the fishing season.

Rules in the legislature dictate that those in the public gallery remain silent.

Negotiations are currently underway on setting a price for the lucrative crab fishery which was held up last year in a dispute over price.

Fish harvesters filled the public gallery to listen to concerns raised on their behalf by Opposition Leader Tony Wakeham, and emotions boiled over when Fisheries Minister Elvis Loveless stood to respond.

“Harvesters are tired of being told when to fish and how much to catch,” Wakeham told the Speaker directing his question to the premier “what are you going to do again to ensure that we get maximum for our fishing industry?” Loveless responded “Well the maximum value Mr. Speaker is to get a formula,” to which frustrated harvesters responded with shouting and jeers from the public gallery.

Municipal Lands Added to Inventory of Protected Areas in NL

Mar 6, 2024 | 2:09 PM

More than 2,500 hectares of public municipal land around the province are now recognized as protected areas, according to the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) and Newfoundland and Labrador’s Stewardship Association of Municipalities.

Corner Brook, Indian Bay, Elliston and Whitbourne are among the communities participating in the first phase of the project.

Piers Evans, the NCC’s program director in Newfoundland and Labrador, says to put the size of the land into perspective, 2,600 hectares is a little larger than the Town of Bay Roberts.

He says protected areas do not mean the land is fenced off without access.

Evans explains that it’s about controlling development and resource extraction activities on the protected lands. He says certain forms of development that are low-impact on the land and conducive to the conservation of biodiversity will still be permitted, as a number of areas have community trails within them.

The NCC is also exploring other areas around the province to protect, as it’s still early in the assessment process, such as municipal drinking water supply areas.

He says protected areas are not complete no-go zones, given some include municipal infrastructure that must be accessed.

It's just that the impact and footprint that human activities are going to have on the area are going to be managed effectively and are going to be such that in the grand scheme of the overall area, it's going to leave a relatively small imprint on the landscape," said Evans.

CBC

Corner Brook paper mill asking to cut timber near city water supply

Residents can submit their comments to council until Thursday

Arlette Lazarenko · CBC News · Posted: Mar 06, 2024 5:00 PM NST | Last Updated: March 6

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/newfoundland-labrador/corner-brook-mill-water-1.7134067>

The Telegram

Fisherman may lose house in deal with processor

Jimmy Lee Foss says bank is threatening to take his home if he doesn't retract complaints

CORNER BROOK — Jimmy Lee Foss says what's happening to him should be a cautionary tale for any young person trying to get into the fishery.

Foss, 38, came home to La Scie after living in Alberta to get back into the fishery, which he worked at in his younger years.

Upon his return to Newfoundland and Labrador, he fished for a couple of seasons before earning his Level II professional fish harvester designation and his navigation ticket, which allowed him to hold a fishing licence and skipper a vessel.

He operated vessels for other owners for a few years and was not only doing well, but making a name for himself in the industry.

He figures it was that recognition that drew attention to him to partner with fish processor Robin Quinlan of Quinlan Brothers Ltd. to acquire his own vessel.

THE DEAL

Foss said Quinlan approached him with an offer to co-sign a \$3.8-million loan from CIBC that would allow Foss to purchase the Ocean Surfer II and a suite of commercial licences, including snow crab and shrimp, in April 2022.

In a news release issued Wednesday, March 6, by inshore fisheries advocate Ryan Cleary, Foss stated low crab prices caused him to have financial problems in 2023.

As a result, a receiver was appointed to his financial case early in 2024.

The news release also indicated Foss had told the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans that he was in a controlling agreement with Quinlan.

Controlling agreements are illegal and occur when a corporation — usually a processing company — loans money to a fisherman to purchase an enterprise, licences, or gear, and, through the agreement, controls the catch," stated the news release.

“Controlling agreements undermine the independence of inshore enterprise owners, and often prevent them from getting a fair price for their fish.”

'CONCERNED ABOUT MY HOUSE'

Foss says DFO is investigating his allegations of being in a controlling agreement, which he told Saltwire in an interview he had no idea he was entering into at the time.

He said he has given DFO his cellphone, which contains communication between him and Quinlan about their arrangement.

On Feb. 29, Foss received a letter from BDO, requesting that he

either retract his declaration to DFO of being in a controlling agreement or sign over the commercial fishing licences still in his name.

The letter gave him until March 7 to comply or CIBC would retain “its full rights to enforce its security interest in the fishing licences, which includes but is not limited to, the personal guarantee.”

That personal guarantee would mean the house Foss has been paying off for nearly 20 years.

“The bank is telling me in writing to take back my complaint with DFO or they’re coming hard,” Foss told Saltwire.

He said he has no intentions of doing that.

“I’m not signing any papers from them,” he said. “They wanted me to sign papers saying I would let somebody else run my enterprise or would give up all rights to it.

“They know I’m concerned about my house and they’re holding that over me.”

FEELS LIKE HE’S BEEN PLAYED

Foss said he’s been “a pawn” for Quinlan to get the licences. He claims he was taken advantage of because he’s one of only a few younger people with the qualifications, interest and growing reputation in the fishery in a position to accept such an offer.

“They sucked me into a deal,” he said. “Robin Quinlan approached me to buy the boat, promised me the moon, the stars and the sky, cosigned for me and everything else and said it was impossible for me to go under with them behind me.

“A year later and the bank wants to take my house.”

Foss said he has nothing left and his family has been struggling through this ordeal. He plans to return to skippering a fishing vessel for another owner this spring to generate income.

Saltwire contacted Quinlan for a response to the allegations against him, but there was no reply by deadline.

Saltwire also asked DFO about the investigation, but no comments had been provided by deadline.

'IMPOSSIBLE POSITION'

Cleary called on DFO to intervene and clarify whether Foss must sign over his commercial licences while an investigation is ongoing.

“No fisherman should be put in that impossible position,” Cleary stated in the news release. “It’s the latest example of how the entire system works against the inshore fleet.”

He added that there are more than 3,000 licensed inshore fishing enterprises in Newfoundland and Labrador, and a majority are tied to processors through financial agreements that include the right of first refusal on all landings.

FISHERY FINANCING AGENCY

In December, the release noted, the House of Commons Standing Committee on Fisheries and Oceans released a report on corporate concentration and foreign ownership of fishing licences and quotas. It recommended the creation of an independent fishery financing agency “similar to Farm Credit Canada” within five years.

The report, continued the release, recommended the financing agency have “sufficient risk tolerance to finance and mentor new entrants to acquire licences and quota and to refinance existing licence holders to become independent of illegal trust and supply agreements with fish processors.”

The Conservatives on the committee, Cleary said, urged DFO to begin working with the provinces on the creation of a new fishery financing agency.

Foss says such an agency would be beneficial to fishing enterprise owners.

“Absolutely,” he said. “Plants love loaning people money because then they’ve got you. Once you owe them money, that’s it.”

“It should be illegal for a fish company to loan me money. There should be some sort of loan board or fish board (to oversee that).”

Saltwire asked the provincial government if there was any movement to create a fishery financing agency, but no details had been provided by deadline.

NTV

Fish harvesters line public gallery in House of Assembly for third straight day

Posted: March 6, 2024 7:39 pm

For the 3rd straight day today fish harvesters lined the public gallery in the House Of Assembly.

<https://ntv.ca/fish-harvesters-line-public-gallery-in-house-of-assembly-for-third-straight-day/>

Seafoodnews.com

With Redfish Opening in May, Atlantic Groundfish Council Seeks Market Partners in Korea, Nigeria

March 6, 2024

With the first opening of Canadian Redfish (ocean perch) around the corner, the Halifax, NS-based Atlantic Groundfish Council is looking for strategic partnerships in South Korea and Nigeria.

The plan is to expand the global footprint of AGC's acclaimed Redfish brand, Kish, reintroducing it to international markets after a period of careful, sustainable management in Canadian waters.

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans opened the waters of maritime Canada in late January, announcing an annual harvest limit of 30,000 tons half of the fishery's highest harvest level of 60,000 tons in 1993. A crash of the fishery followed two years later, resulting in the 1995 closure to help redfish stocks rebuild to healthy levels.

The 2024 Allocation for Redfish Unit 1 is split six ways between different harvesting sectors. The offshore fleet of 100-foot vessels or longer will get 58.7%, inshore vessels measuring less than 65' will receive 14.8%, and mid-shore vessels between 65-100' will get 5.7%. Inshore fixed gear fleets will get .75% of the quota and a bycatch of 10% of the quota is allocated to the Estuary and Gulf of St. Lawrence (ESGL) Shrimp Harvesters. Finally 10% is allocated to the Indigenous communities.

The AGC ensures that the redfish is quickly processed and frozen at peak freshness to maintain its distinctive qualities: moderately firm fillets that are lean, moist, and flaky, with a mild yet slightly sweet taste.

"Kish Redfish is an excellent choice for health-conscious consumers worldwide, offering high protein and low fat," AGC's spokesperson said in a press statement.

In seeking partnerships in South Korea and Nigeria, the AGC aims to introduce Kish Redfish to new culinary landscapes and build bridges between cultures, economies, and sustainable practices. This strategic move underlines the Council's commitment to global collaboration and shared values in sustainable seafood consumption.

"Our members, from Lunenburg, NS to Arnold's Cove, NL, are united in their belief that our actions today shape tomorrow's fisheries," said a spokesperson for the AGC. "By bringing Kish Redfish to South Korea and Nigeria, we invite our future partners to join us in a journey of sustainability, quality, and mutual growth."

The Atlantic Groundfish Council invites interested parties in South Korea and Nigeria to explore this unique opportunity. For further information and to establish a dialogue on potential partnerships, please reach out through the contact form on our dedicated website, Kish Redfish or the AGC's primary site [at Atlantic Groundfish Council].

Although Redfish, also known as Ocean Perch, has recovered in numbers, return under the meticulous stewardship of the AGC. Thriving in the deep basins and along the continental shelf off the Atlantic coast, this marine treasure is harvested year-round. The AGC ensures that the Redfish is quickly processed and frozen at peak freshness to maintain its distinctive qualities: moderately firm fillets that are lean, moist, and flaky, with a mild yet slightly sweet taste. Kish Redfish is an excellent choice for health-conscious consumers worldwide, offering high protein and low fat.

Since 1997, the Atlantic Groundfish Council has led the charge in fostering a sustainable and profitable groundfish industry. With a firm commitment to environmental stewardship and the economic vitality of Canada's coastal communities, the AGC has continually contributed to research, policy development, and environmental protection initiatives. The Council's mission extends beyond mere harvesting; it is a dedicated effort to secure a future where the groundfish industry thrives on conservation and innovation.

In seeking partnerships in South Korea and Nigeria, the AGC aims to introduce Kish Redfish to new culinary landscapes and build bridges between cultures, economies, and sustainable practices. This strategic move underlines the Council's commitment to global collaboration and shared values in sustainable seafood consumption.

"Our members, from Lunenburg, NS to Arnold's Cove, NL, are united in their belief that our actions today shape tomorrow's fisheries," said a spokesperson for the AGC. "By bringing Kish Redfish to South Korea and Nigeria, we invite our future partners to join us in a journey of sustainability, quality, and mutual growth."

The Atlantic Groundfish Council invites interested parties in South Korea and Nigeria to explore this unique opportunity. For further information and to establish a dialogue on potential partnerships, please reach out through the contact form on our dedicated website, Kish Redfish or the AGC's primary site at Atlantic Groundfish Council.

FFAW Meets With Minister Davis About Continued Concerns Involving St. Anthony Seafoods

March 6, 2024

FFAW-Unifor is continuing to butt heads with St. Anthony Seafoods. FFAW President Greg Pretty, as well as other members of the union, met with Minister Bernard Davis earlier this week to express their concerns about labor management at the plant.

Royal Greenland took a controlling interest in St. Anthony Seafoods in September 2020. Since then, FFAW has had issues with the plant, telling Minister Davis this week that the change in operators has led to "excessive hours of work by employees over consecutive days that goes beyond what is safe, in addition to a general culture of intimidation and harassment.

"A decision from a 2021 arbitration award identified that plant manager, Stedman Letto, did not adhere to minimum Labour Standards and violated the Collective Agreement on several occasions," a news release from FFAW reads. "Letto continues to violate the Collective Agreement, mistreat workers, and shirk basic Canadian labour standards. FFAW-Unifor has formally requested Letto's removal in 2023 and the request was denied by Royal Greenland. Upon learning that Letto would be returning as plant manager for the 2024 season, employees have expressed fear for returning to unsafe and unhealthy working conditions under Letto's direction. FFAW submitted a formal request to the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador for an investigation into working conditions at St. Anthony Seafoods on February 29, 2024."

FFAW's issues with St. Anthony Seafoods came to a head in the summer of 2022 when FFAW members engaged in protests on inshore shrimp. FFAW claimed that the St. Anthony plant was "deliberately acting in poor faith and causing economic distress to inshore harvesters." Simon Jarding, the managing director of Royal Greenland's operations in Newfoundland at the time, countered that the plant had set out to become a "top professional seafood operator that will make the whole region proud," but that infighting was getting in the way.

The union wants no issues heading into the 2024 season, and in order to make sure no issues arise, FFAW wants the Occupational Health and Safety Division to review hours of work for all employees between July and August 2023. They also want the department to review all the documented incidents of intimidation and harassment to "ensure the well-being of workers in 2024."

Minister Davis told members of FFAW that he would be following up and continue to further the discussion.

Canada Fisheries Minister Visits U.S. to Promote Sustainable Seafood in Canada

March 6, 2024

The minister of Fisheries, Oceans, and the Canadian Coast Guard is visiting the United States. Minister Diane Lebouthillier arrived in New York on March 2 and will spend the next six days in the country, returning back to Canada on March 12.

"The United States is a trusted friend and ally, as well as our largest fish and seafood trading partner. Over the next few days, I look forward to meeting with American counterparts and stakeholders to deepen that unique relationship, which supports good jobs and drives our growth, innovation and competitiveness from coast to coast to coast," said Minister Lebouthillier.

On Monday, while in New York City, Minister Lebouthillier visited the United Nations and signed an Agreement on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement). The BBNJ Agreement seeks to protect the ocean, tackle environmental degradation and prevent biodiversity loss. It's also in line with Canada's commitment to protect 25% of its domestic land and water by 2025 and protect 30% of the world's oceans by 2030.

Minister Lebouthillier also toured the Fulton Fish Market during her visit, meeting with key stakeholders and government officials to promote sustainable seafood in Canada.

During her trip to the U.S., Minister Lebouthillier is expected to visit Washington, D.C., where she will meet with both the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Administrator Dr. Richard W. Spinrad.

Minister Lebouthillier will also travel to Maine to mark International Women's Day. She will meet with members of the Gulf of Maine Research Institute, New England Ocean Cluster and women-owned enterprises.

Finally, Minister Lebouthillier will end her trip at Seafood Expo North America (SENA) in Boston – which runs from March 10-12 – where she will lead the Canadian delegation. SENA is the largest trade exposition of its kind in North America, providing a global platform to showcase Canada's fish and seafood products.

The visit comes less than a week after Minister Lebouthillier announced over \$3.5 million in funding for 18 initiatives under the Fisheries and Aquaculture Clean Technology Adoption Program. The money will help small and medium-sized businesses implement new innovations and clean technologies in Canada's aquaculture sector.

In 2023, Canada exported over \$7.6 billion worth of fish and seafood to 115 countries. The United States remains the country's largest export market, accounting for 64% of exports valued at \$4.9 billion. Lobster continues to be Canada's most valuable export species, worth over \$2.6 billion last year.

Canada to Host 2024 All-Atlantic Ocean Research and Innovation Alliance Forum

Source: Fisheries and Oceans Canada
March 6, 2024

The Atlantic Ocean provides Canadians with food, jobs, energy, and recreation. Its ecosystems and resources are vitally important to our economy, environment and cultures. That's why Canada proudly collaborates with likeminded countries to take coordinated action to study the Atlantic Ocean and find ocean-based science solutions to help protect it.

Today, the Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard, the Honourable Diane Lebouthillier announced that Canada will host the 2024 All-Atlantic Ocean Research and Innovation Alliance (AAORIA) Forum at the Canadian Museum of Nature in Ottawa, Ontario, from October 8 to 10, 2024. The annual Forum will bring together representatives from the Atlantic community, including AAORIA partners like Argentina, Brazil, Cabo Verde, the European Union, Morocco, Norway, South Africa, the United Kingdom and the United States. The 2024 Forum will focus on opportunities for collaborative science including coordinating efforts on ocean observation and increasing our understanding of the relationship between ocean and climate.

Minister Lebouthillier also announced the release of Canada's Oceans Now: Atlantic Ecosystems, 2022. The report, prepared by Fisheries and Oceans Canada with contributions from Environment and Climate Change Canada, gives an overview of the state of Canada's Atlantic Ocean. It is the Department's second Atlantic Ocean status report in a series informing Canadians on the state of Canada's oceans. The report has been endorsed as a United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development activity by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO.

Our Atlantic Ocean is changing and having an enormous impact on the coastal communities that depend on it. By continuing to research and monitor Atlantic Ocean ecosystems with our partners, Canada is better equipped to contribute to the knowledge and solutions needed to inform sustainable ocean decisions and meet our commitments set through the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030), the United Nations Sustainable Development Agenda 2030, and the Partnership for Atlantic Cooperation.

Quotes

"Canadians rely on healthy oceans – they are the backbone of our economy, cultures, and ecosystems. As a maritime nation, Canada is fully committed to engaging the ocean science community to find sustainable solutions. I am honoured that Canada will be hosting the 2024 All-Atlantic Ocean Research and Innovation Alliance Forum. Together with our All-Atlantic partners, we will continue to roll up our sleeves to tackle climate challenges of today and tomorrow."

The Honourable Diane Lebovillier, Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard

"At COP15 in Montreal, Canada joined the world in committing to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030 and put nature on a path to recovery by 2050. The health of the Atlantic Ocean is vital to that mission, linked to the health of coastal communities and regional biodiversity, such as seabirds. Opportunities like hosting the All-Atlantic Ocean Research and Innovation Alliance and reports like Canada's Oceans Now: Atlantic Ecosystems 2022 help guide our actions to protect these invaluable ecosystems and the species that depend on them. Our government will continue to work together with partners across the Atlantic region to protect migratory birds, species at risk and their habitats."

The Honourable Steven Guilbeault, Minister of Environment and Climate Change

Quick Facts

- * Canada's Atlantic waters are some of the most productive marine environments in the world.
- * The All-Atlantic Ocean Research and Innovation Alliance (AAORIA) was formalized in 2022 following the signing of the All-Atlantic Declaration, and builds upon the successes of the Galway Statement on Atlantic Cooperation and the Belém Statement on Atlantic Research and Innovation Cooperation.
- * The report, Canada's Oceans Now: Atlantic Ecosystems, 2022, highlights the key challenges facing our ocean ecosystems and describes the current status and trends in Atlantic Canada's marine ecosystems up to the end of 2021.
- * Canada is a proud supporter of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, an international initiative led by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization. It encourages partners from around the world to collaborate to advance ocean science to support sustainable development of our oceans. Canada's work under AAORIA leverages and contributes to Canada's contribution to the UN Ocean Decade.

Headlines

PUBLIC LANDS BEING RECOGNIZED AS PROTECTED AREAS: There is some good news that has been released by the Nature Conservancy of Canada. 2600 hectares of municipal public lands are now going to be recognized as protected areas. ["Piers Evans", NCC Director in NL]

CBN - St. John's - On The Go @ 04:37:34pm Duration: 00:07:53 Reporter:
Ref Id: H6r-5C3-6

FISH HARVESTERS KICKED OUT OF GALLERY DURING QUESTION PERIOD: A group of fish harvesters were outside the doors of the Confederation Building today after being kicked out of the public gallery during Question Period. ["John

Efford", Harvester] [Clip of HOA Question Period with PC Leader "Tony Wakeham" and Fisheries Minister "Elvis Loveless"]

CBN - St. John's - Fisheries Broadcast @ 06:10:21pm Duration: 00:07:33 Reporter: Todd O'Brien

Ref Id: T6T-3v8-6

CATCH AND RELEASE OF SALMON: Should this province ban the catch and release of salmon? As salmon numbers goes down the practice is becoming more popular. ["Bob Sheppard", President of Ban Catch and Release NL]

CBN - St. John's - Fisheries Broadcast @ 06:21:01pm Duration: 00:13:57 Reporter:

Ref Id: A7f-2n8-6

FISH HARVESTERS DISRUPT PROCEEDINGS AT HOA: Frustrated fish harvesters disrupted proceedings at the House of Assembly yesterday as they await a deal on the price setting formula for snow crab. [Clip of HOA debate between "Tony Wakeham", PC Leader and Fisheries Minister "Elvis Loveless"]

VOCM - St. John's - 8am News @ 08:07:34am Duration: 00:01:18 Reporter:

Ref Id: V6G-9e6-7

CALL FOR BAN ON CATCH AND RELEASE SALMON FISHING: A fish harvester and advocate is calling for a ban on catch and release salmon fishing. ["Bob Sheppard", President of Ban Catch and Release NL]

CBN - St. John's - 7am News @ 07:02:35am Duration: 00:00:57 Reporter:

Ref Id: X4q-3E2-7

Craig Renouf

Media Relations Manager

Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture

709-637-2923 (office)

709-640-6922 (cell)

craigrenouf@gov.nl.ca

From: Renouf, Craig
Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2024 2:29 PM
To: Chippett, Jamie
Cc: Shea, Erin, Hanlon, Bren M.
Subject: MR for APPROVAL: The Telegram/La Scie Fisher Issue

Hi Jamie,

Please see the following MR for approval. Bren and IET officials have reviewed. Thanks, Craig.

MEDIA REQUEST

Date: March 6, 2024

Media:

Gary Kean
Saltwire

40(1)

Gary.kean@thewesternstar.com

Reporter s Deadline: Not Specified

Context:

The reporter has questions stemming from a recent news release issued by Ryan Cleary that highlights the circumstance of an inshore fisherman from La Scie whose commercial fishing enterprise is being seized by a bank. The fisherman has been given until Thursday, March 7th, to either retract a recent declaration to DFO that he was in an illegal controlling agreement, or risk losing his home.

The news release notes that in December 2023, the House of Commons Standing Committee on Fisheries and Oceans released a report on corporate concentration and foreign ownership into fishing licences and quota recommending the creation of an independent fishery financing agency (similar to Farm Credit Canada) within five years to support fishers.

The report recommended the financing agency have sufficient risk tolerance to finance and mentor new entrants to acquire licenses and quota and to refinance existing licence holders to become independent of illegal trust and supply agreements with fish processors.

Questions:

1. Wondering if the creation of an independent fishery financing agency is on the Government of NL's radar or if any work towards that goal has been done?
2. Is it something the province would like to see?

Suggested Approach: Written Statement

Suggested Statement/Key Messages

There are no plans to create a new independent fishery financing agency at this time.

The Provincial Government currently provides support for independent fish harvesters through the Fisheries Loan Guarantee Program, administered by the Department of Industry, Energy and Technology.

The program provides a government guarantee on loans through local chartered banks for the construction or purchase of marine vessels, new engines and fishing equipment for the improvement, rebuilding or alteration of existing vessels.

Craig Renouf

Media Relations Manager

Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture

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709-640-6922 (cell)

craigrenouf@gov.nl.ca

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From: Chippett, Jamie
Sent: Monday, March 11, 2024 12:17 PM
To: Loveless, Elvis
Subject: FW: KMs on fish just in case
Attachments: Protesting Fish Harvesters.docx

From: Shea, Erin <ErinShea@gov.nl.ca>
Sent: Monday, March 11, 2024 12:14 PM
To: Chippett, Jamie <JamieChippett@gov.nl.ca>
Subject: FW: KMs on fish just in case

FYI only

From: McCabe, Meghan <[MeghanMcCabe@gov.nl.ca](mailto: MeghanMcCabe@gov.nl.ca)>
Sent: Monday, March 11, 2024 12:14 PM
To: Crocker, Steve <[SteveCrocker@gov.nl.ca](mailto: SteveCrocker@gov.nl.ca)>; Davis, Bernard <[BernardDavis@gov.nl.ca](mailto: BernardDavis@gov.nl.ca)>
Cc: Worthman, Matthew <[MatthewWorthman@gov.nl.ca](mailto: MatthewWorthman@gov.nl.ca)>; Luther, Adrienne <[AdrienneLuther@gov.nl.ca](mailto: AdrienneLuther@gov.nl.ca)>; Babb, Matthew <[mbabb@gov.nl.ca](mailto: mbabb@gov.nl.ca)>; Marnell, Debbie <[DebbieMarnell@gov.nl.ca](mailto: DebbieMarnell@gov.nl.ca)>; Barfoot, Scott <[ScottBarfoot@gov.nl.ca](mailto: ScottBarfoot@gov.nl.ca)>; Shea, Erin <[ErinShea@gov.nl.ca](mailto: ErinShea@gov.nl.ca)>; Sulley, Erin <[ErinSulley@gov.nl.ca](mailto: ErinSulley@gov.nl.ca)>
Subject: KMs on fish just in case

Hi folks,

I put these together for the Premier for QP today, based on the msging from the dept, just updated a little, but want to share for Min. Crocker and Min. Davis as well.

Min. Loveless was not able to get back.

Thanks!
McCabe

Meghan McCabe
Director of Communications

Office of the Premier
Government of Newfoundland & Labrador
East Block, Confederation Building
P.O. Box 8700, St. John's NL A1B 4J6

(709) 729 - 3960
[meghanmccabe@gov.nl.ca](mailto: meghanmccabe@gov.nl.ca)



Protesting Fish Harvesters

- Newfoundland and Labrador's fishing industry is significant, and we recognize its value – particularly in more rural areas of the province.
- Just months ago, I personally travelled around the province meeting with harvesters, plant workers, owners – all talking about our shared interest to make the fishing industry in Newfoundland and Labrador the best it can be.
- Its value reaches far beyond the amount of money it generates – the hard-working fish harvesters and plant workers in our province produce a world-class product, and the Minister and I were proud to promote our industry at the Boston Seafood Expo.
- We all want the same thing – an organized start to the 2024 season for the benefit of all parties, especially harvesters and plant workers.
- We have been in touch with the ASP and FFAW throughout the weekend, as ASP has made an offer to the FFAW and we are all awaiting the FFAW's response.
- We continue to encourage them to remain at the table and reach an agreement.
- As a government, we are committed to looking at the concerns being raised when it comes to competition and processing capacity – including those being raised by a group of fish harvesters, who I've met with myself.
- I will continue to do everything I can to ensure our valuable fishing industry is set up for success.

Background

- The Fish Processing Licensing Board makes recommendations to the Minister of FFA after careful review of the information. Decisions are based on the best interests of the industry and Province.
- The Minister has the authority to accept or reject applications under the legislation.
- I can assure you that a decision on processing licences will not be taken lightly and every recommendation of the Board will be given full and fair consideration.
- A decision to allow outside buyers requires careful consideration as it may impact processing jobs and have other unintended consequences.

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From: Hanlon, Bren M.
Sent: Tuesday, March 12, 2024 12:50 PM
To: Shea, Erin, Chippett, Jamie
Subject: FW: PMR
Attachments: PMR.pdf

fyi

From: Baldwin, Paul <PaulBaldwin@gov.nl.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, March 12, 2024 12:49 PM
To: Hanlon, Bren M. <brenhanlon@gov.nl.ca>
Subject: PMR

As discussed

PAUL BALDWIN, CD
Executive Assistant to Hon. Elvis Loveless
Minister of Fisheries, Forestry, and Agriculture
MHA, District of Fortune Bay Cape LaHune

t 709-729-3783 | e paulbaldwin@gov.nl.ca



*Tabled by the member
for Stephenville - Port au Port
K. Hawley George
March 11, 2024.*

Draft #2
PMR on fisheries 2024

Notice March 11, 2024

Debate March 13, 2024

Moved by the Member for STEPHENVILLE PORT AU PORT

Seconded by the Member for BONAUSTA

WHEREAS for the second year in a row, our province's fishing industry may be destined for a shutdown over issues such as pricing, leaving frustrated harvesters out of the water protesting instead of on their boats fishing, and leaving fish processing plant workers lacking product to process while days and weeks are lost;

AND WHEREAS these repeated shutdowns in our fishing industry cost our fish harvesters valuable and perhaps irreplaceable fishing time in the short harvesting season, cost our fish processing plant workers the work they need, cost our province an important source of spinoff economic activity in our communities and revenue, and cost Newfoundland and Labrador its reputation as a stable place to do business;

AND WHEREAS many approaches have been proposed in the past and many approaches are in place in other jurisdictions that might offer hope of a resolution to the current impasse and ways of avoiding future impasses – but good solutions are usually found faster when all parties are around the negotiating table working hard on a resolution;

AND WHEREAS an industry as important to Newfoundland and Labrador as the fishing industry requires the hands-on leadership and presence of our province's top leaders in government, including the Premier and the Fisheries Minister, especially in times of crisis like this;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this Hon. House urge the Premier and the Province's Minister of Fisheries to immediately take a hands-on role at the table with representatives of our fisheries workers and fish processors to help find a swift and effective resolution of the current impasse, as well as long-term solutions that make future impasses less likely and help place our fishing industry on a more stable and steady footing so the opportunities our province needs are not lost.

From: Renouf, Craig
Sent: Tuesday, March 12, 2024 4:16 PM
To: Loveless, Elvis, Chippett, Jamie, Baldwin, Paul, Hanlon, Bren M., Shea, Erin
Subject: MORE MEDIA - March 12, 2024

CBC

Fisheries minister faces angry crab harvesters on steps of Confederation Building

Crab harvesters confronted government officials Tuesday at Confederation Building in St. John's. Angry over what they see as the consolidation of processing plants and the lack of competition in the fishing industry, harvesters shouted down Fisheries Minister Elvis Loveless when he tried to address the crowd.

Video: <https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/2317825603559>

VOCM

Public Gallery Cleared After Heated Fisheries Debate

Mar 12, 2024 | 2:23 PM

The public gallery was cleared and Question Period recessed following another disruption in the House of Assembly today.

Fish harvesters have been gathering at Confederation Building for days, trying to put pressure on the provincial government to address what they see as structure issues in the province's fishery.

Crab price negotiations are currently underway, but frustrated harvesters want greater competition for the fish they catch and are asking that they be allowed to sell to outside buyers willing to buy.

Debate in the house once again got heated as Opposition Leader Tony Wakeham asked the Premier and Fisheries Minister Elvis Loveless for an update on when harvesters can expect their concerns to be addressed.

Craig Renouf
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Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture
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From: Shea, Erin
Sent: Wednesday, March 13, 2024 4:35 AM
To: Chippett, Jamie
Subject: Fwd: SN - Private Members Resolution on Fishery
Attachments: SN - PMR on Fishery REV- March 12 2024.docx

Did you get SNs for the PMR for approval?? Craig says he sent it to you after QP but I cant find a record of it. I need to give a hard copy and an ecopy to the minister.

Min GB will no doubt write his own, but we have no bullets for Min Crocker. I dont know what else we might need for a PMR. [REDACTED]

29(1)(a)

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Hanlon, Bren M." <BrenHanlon@gov.nl.ca>
Date: March 12, 2024 at 2:54:07 PM NDT
To: "Renouf, Craig" <CraigRenouf@gov.nl.ca>
Cc: "Shea, Erin" <ErinShea@gov.nl.ca>
Subject: RE: SN - Private Members Resolution on Fishery

This looks great, see my few small proposed edits.

Thanks

From: Renouf, Craig <CraigRenouf@gov.nl.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, March 12, 2024 2:44 PM
To: Hanlon, Bren M. <brenhanlon@gov.nl.ca>
Cc: Shea, Erin <ErinShea@gov.nl.ca>
Subject: SN - Private Members Resolution on Fishery

Hi Bren,

Please find attached for approval speaking drafted for the Minister in reply to tomorrows anticipated opposition PMR.
Thanks, Craig.

Craig Renouf
Media Relations Manager
Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture
709-637-2923 (office)
709-640-6922 (cell)
craigrenouf@gov.nl.ca

Speaking Points

Honourable Elvis Loveless Minister of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture PMR – Support for Provincial Fishing Industry

- Speaker, I rise today in this Honourable House to discuss Newfoundland and Labrador's vital fisheries sector. The fishing industry continues to be a significant contributor to our province's economy.
- This province exports seafood products in excess of a billion dollars to more than 40 countries every year. There are approximately 17,000 seafood workers in 400 communities who rely on the fishery for their livelihood. We are all aware how important it is to the workers and their families that the fishing sector is as successful as possible.
- Our government recognizes the efforts of fishing sector professionals throughout Newfoundland and Labrador. In the Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture, we are working hard every day with all stakeholders who support sustainable management of our fisheries.
- Recently, Premier Furey and I travelled around the province visiting numerous fishing communities, talking to those working in the fishing sector. We met with and spoke with processors, harvesters and plant workers and more. It was an honour to speak with the hard working individuals and discuss how all can work together and make our fishing industry the best it can be.
- I'm sure we can all recognize that the value of our fishing sector reaches far beyond the amount of money it generates – the hard-working fish harvesters and plant workers in our province produce a world-class product.
- Snow crab is the most valuable seafood product in Newfoundland and Labrador, with exports of over 35 thousand tonnes valued at approximately \$615 million in 2023 accounting for 56 per cent of total seafood exports by value.
- Beyond the economic benefits, the fishery is an integral part of our culture and holds a particularly special place in the hearts of our people and our government.
- This was evident during our visit to the Boston Seafood Expo over the weekend. We were honoured to have Premier Furey join us in promoting our province's seafood among the industry leaders at North America's largest seafood expo.
- It was obvious that there is significant global interest in this province's high-quality, sustainable, and nutritious seafood. As I mentioned, our seafood export sector was valued at more than one billion dollars last year.

- Beyond the work of engaging some of the most important players in the global seafood industry, we took part in discussions with marketing experts, business leaders and industry analysts; making these types of connections often leads to new strategic partnerships and opportunities for the province's fishing industry.

Crab Price-Setting Negotiations

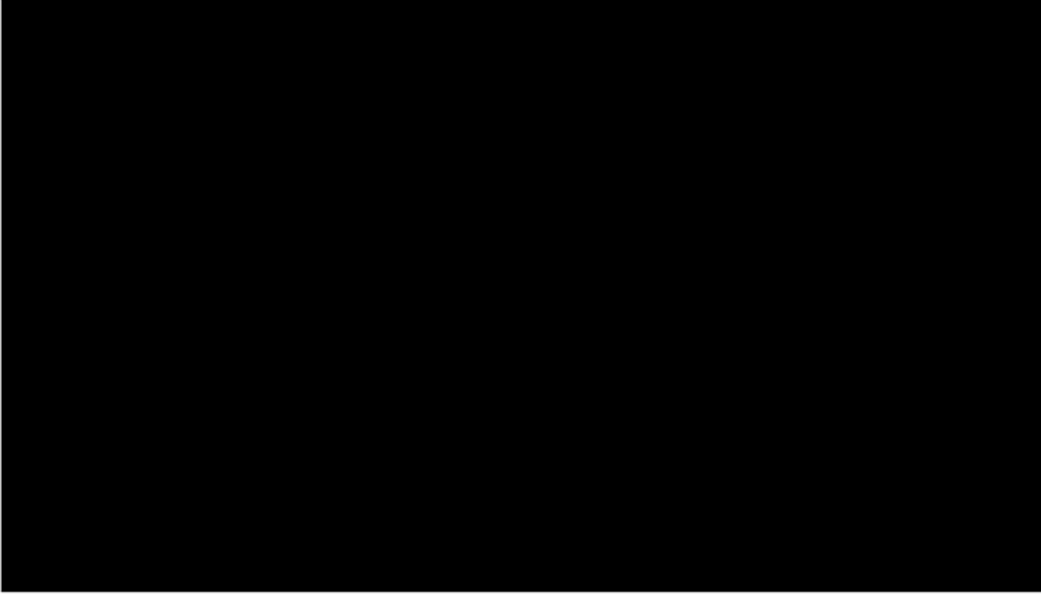
- Everyone who depends on the fishery all want the same thing – an organized and timely start to the season for the benefit of all parties.
- That is why we acted back on September 6 to establish a provincial Fish Price-Setting Strategic Review Team. We wanted to support the development of a formula-based framework for fish price-setting, and other potential mechanisms to address ongoing issues with the current price-setting process.
- The strategic review team's mandate included economic analysis, stakeholder consultations and review of current legislation, policy and regulations, with the objective of finding a solution that reflects the respective roles and values of the harvesting and processing sectors.

29(1)(a)

- Since that time, we have remained in regular contact with the Association of Seafood Producers and the FFAW as they work on coming to an agreement regarding the price of snow crab.
- I understand the Association of Seafood Producers recently made an offer to the FFAW and we are all awaiting the response. We all want to see an orderly, timely start to the season.
- As collective bargaining is a legislated process that occurs between the Association of Seafood Producers and FFAW, the Provincial Government can facilitate; however, neither I as the Minister Responsible for Fisheries, nor the Premier nor the Minister Responsible for Labour, have a place at this table.
- We continue to encourage both organizations to remain at the table and reach an agreement. As we have said, we want harvesters on the water and people working in the fish plants and are doing whatever we can so that this happens as soon as possible.

29(1)(a)

3



From: [Renouf, Craig](#)
Sent: [Wednesday, March 13, 2024 9:43 AM](#)
To: [Loveless, Elvis](#), [Chippett, Jamie](#), [Baldwin, Paul](#), [Hanlon, Bren M.](#), [Adams, Blair](#), [Balsom, Stephen](#), [Deering, Keith](#), [Shea, Erin](#), [Skinner, Linda](#)
Subject: [MORNING MEDIA - March 13, 2024](#)

VOCM

Minister Monitoring Milk Supply in Wake of Central Dairies Fire

Mar 13, 2024 | 6:08 AM

The Department of Agriculture says it is not yet aware of any issues affecting the provinces milk supply following a fire at Central Dairies in Mount Pearl.

The blaze broke out in a storage building late Monday night, and took five hours to extinguish. Damage to the storage facility was extensive.

Its led to concerns for the overall milk supply in the province, with some grocery stores already showing the effects a day after.

Department officials say they have been in contact with Central Dairies to offer whatever help they may need as the company, owned by Agropur Dairy Co-operative, assesses the extent of the impact on operations.

Agriculture Minister Elvis Loveless, meanwhile, also pledged support for the dairy industry in the wake of the fire.

Loveless says he has discussed the situation with the assistant deputy minister responsible, adding he is definitely on it.

The minister acknowledges the fire is a step back, but says government will support the industry in any way they can.

Harvesters Gather Outside Confederation Building Calling for End to Selling Restrictions

Mar 12, 2024 | 3:56 PM

Disputes over prices paid to harvesters have plagued the crab fishery for the past several years, resulting in a tie-up of the boats last year.

Crab boat owner John Efford says it makes no sense to have a law that prevents them from selling to outside buyers once the fish is landed in this province. They can sell their catch to outside buyers if they proceed directly from sea to another province, but thats an expensive venture because of the distance.

He wants government to allow outside buyers into this province, and is calling on government to give a permit to anyone who wishes to process fish.

The Telegram

CRAB CONCERNS

Fish harvesters shut down legislature

The Telegram (St. John's) 13 Mar 2024 JUANITA MERCER THE TELEGRAM juanita.mercer@thetelegram.com
[@juanitamercer_](#)

Fish harvesters concerned about the upcoming crab season shut down the provincial legislature briefly on Tuesday when they filled the public gallery and shouted at the politicians debating in the chamber below.

Be a premier! one shouted. Bunch of losers! said another.

And they continued: You're useless!

Shut this place down! Where's the help?

My house is being taken from me!

You've done a fabulous job looking after Royal Greenland, Loveless!

THE BACKGROUND

The crab fishing season is set to begin in April. Last year's season was delayed by six weeks due to a dispute over prices. Now there are mounting concerns for this year.

After last year's delay, the provincial government struck a committee which recommended both sides in the dispute, the Association of Seafood Producers (ASP) and the Fish, Food and Allied Workers (FFAW) union, agree to a new pricing formula by the end of January 2024 to avoid another delay this year.

So far, they haven't reached an agreement.

Since the start of the spring session of the legislature last week, a group of harvesters has gathered at the Confederation Building every day to make their concerns known.

They want to see more free enterprise in the fishery, and the Tories echoed that call in their questions for the government on Tuesday.

FACILITATING DISCUSSIONS

Question period began relatively calmly, but quickly turned to shouting.

I ask the premier: do you believe in free enterprise in our fishing industry? Progressive Conservative Leader Tony Wakeham asked.

We've heard the voices of those on the steps. We've heard the voices of those around the province, Furey began.

Let me tell you, once again, how important the fishery is, not just to us in the economy, but to the social fabric of Newfoundland and Labrador. We have heard that. We're glad to say that two sides are currently negotiating. As a government, we just facilitate those discussions, he said.

A harvester shouted out twice that Furey was not answering the question, and security spoke with the man.

We certainly ask them to continue to talk, to come to a timely resolution so that the uncertainty and the anxiety that exists within our harvesters, the processors and the plant workers alike can be resolved, Furey said, adding that the government is committed to looking at the structural issues in the fishery, including the potential for outside buyers, processing capacity and corporate concentration.

Furey said there are 500 years of problems that exist, and those aren't going to change overnight, but the government is committed to reviewing them. He said the government has to consider the downstream impacts of decisions, such as how plant workers would be affected.

WORDS, WORDS, WORDS

Wakeham said people want action, and the harvesters in the gallery applauded.

Wakeham asked Furey if he would get directly involved in making sure the fishery starts on time this year.

Furey reiterated that there has been 500 years of issues in the fishery, a comment that was met with scoffs from the harvesters as they shook their heads. He said he has been directly involved. He said he called both sides to his office last week to ensure they were back at the table to get a timely start to the season.

Words, words, words. That's what we're hearing: words, words, words, retorted Wakeham.

When? When? When? When? he continued.

Tell that to the people of rural Newfoundland and Labrador who are concerned about their jobs, Wakeham said, to table-thumping from the Tories and applause from the harvesters.

Tell that to the fish plant workers. Tell that to the people in the gallery.

There was uproarious applause from the harvesters.

Tell that to the people on the steps of Confederation Building! Wakeham shouted.

PUBLIC GALLERY CLEARED

Speaker Derek Bennett called for order and reminded the harvesters that people in the public gallery are not permitted to participate in debate either in favour or against.

If it continues, we'll clear the galleries, he warned.

Fisheries Minister Elvis Loveless said the premier did get involved, and both sides are at the negotiating table. Loveless promised to look at the structural issues.

Were taking it serious, Loveless said.

Ultimately, right now, is to get a deal done so boats can get back on the water and fish plant workers can be working in the fish plants so we can have a good season this year. The other issues, we'll be taking a look at, no doubt, but you can't fix that overnight, Loveless said.

Some harvesters in the gallery laughed.

As the Opposition began asking questions again, the harvesters stood up from their seats and started shouting at the politicians below, putting particular attention on Furey and Loveless. Some of them pointed their fingers angrily. Some of them cursed.

At that, Bennett asked the commissionaires to clear the public gallery, and he asked the MHAS to leave the chamber.

Once all of the harvesters left, the MHAS returned to the House of Assembly and question period resumed, this time with an empty public gallery.

FIRE DAMAGES DAIRY

Firefighters tackled a large fire at the Central Dairies processing plant in Mount Pearls Donovans Business Park during a heavy rain and windstorm late Monday night. The St. Johns Regional Fire Department was initially called to the business just before 11:30 p.m. for an alarm call, but they soon discovered a large fire at the rear of the building. Platoon chief Derek Hunt said the fire appeared to have started in a large exterior trash compactor at the rear of the building and then spread to other material nearby. He said firefighters were sent into the building as well to prevent the fire from extending inside. Flames could be seen shooting above the roofline and smoke drifted across part of the business park until firefighters had the blaze extinguished about two hours later. The exterior of the plant was heavily damaged and a Newfoundland Power crew was called in to cut power. No information was available as to the amount of damage to the plant or if operations would be affected. There were no injuries and the incident is under investigation.

Towns earn recognition for conservation efforts

Indian Bay, Corner Brook, Elliston and Whitbourne get provincial and national recognition for 2,621 hectares of protected public land

The Telegram (St. John's)13 Mar 2024GARY KEAN THE TELEGRAM gary.kean @thewesternstar.com @western_star

The Wild Cove Fen in Corner Brook contains the only known populations of northern bog aster and rattlesnake root, both of which are listed under the provincial environmental protection legislation.

The conservation work some municipalities have been doing to protect areas within their boundaries has paid off with provincial and national recognition.

The Nature Conservancy of Canada and Newfoundland and Labrador's Stewardship Association of Municipalities recently recognized a total of 2,621 hectares of public land in four municipalities as protected areas.

Those municipalities include Indian Bay, Corner Brook, Elliston and Whitbourne. A news release issued March 6 noted that some of the newly recognized areas contain boreal forest, wetlands, scree slopes, coastal habitat and important habitat for species at risk, and many are valued areas for recreational activities, such as hiking.

These natural areas are now recognized by the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador as protected areas and are included in the national database of protected and conserved areas.

INDIAN BAY BROOK

The largest of the areas is a 1,151-hectare watershed upstream from the town of Indian Bay in Bonavista Bay.

Indian Bay Brook has a population of banded killifish, which are protected under both the federal Species at Risk Act and the provincial Endangered Species Act.

The Municipality of Indian Bay committed to the conservation of its important wildlife habitat in 2016 and is thrilled to have the Indian Bay Brook Management Unit recognized on a national level and included in national and international conservation targets, Indian Bay Mayor Christa Lane said in the news release.

CORNER BROOK

The protected 609 hectares within Corner Brook is actually spread over two areas, one of which consists of multiple areas.

The Wild Cove Fen is a unique calcareous wetland near the municipal landfill and contains the only known populations of northern bog aster and rattlesnake root, both of which are listed under the provincial legislation.

Not far from the fen are two scree slopes along the north and south shores of the Humber River, including the one that wraps around Breakfast Head, the highland containing the Man in the Mountain feature.

That exposed, rubbly slope is the only known location where a plant known as cutleaf fleabane grows.

Mayor Jim Parsons said the city is now looking forward to recognizing other areas that can be protected.

ELLISTON

Elliston, on the Bonavista Peninsula, also has two sites, which make up 431 hectares of protected area.

Island Pond is a wetland complex on the coastal towns inland stretch.

Wetlands are targets for municipal stewardship agreement areas because of the biodiversity they support and also because, more and more, communities are seeing wetlands as pieces of a sort of green infrastructure natural assets that are doing a lot of work to help mitigate against flood risk, explained Piers Evans, the Nature Conservancy of Canadas program director in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Elliston is also protecting a long coastal strip that is part of the Little Catalina to Mayberly Trail, a popular site for viewing Atlantic puffins and other seabird populations.

WHITBOURNE

The 430 hectares of protected area in Whitbourne involves a series of pools along the Hodge River that leads down into the town.

The watershed is well known for rare lichen species, including boreal felt lichen and blue felt lichen, both of which are protected by provincial and federal legislation.

There have also been observations of red crossbill, a bird species also listed under both pieces of protective legislation, in the Hodge River area.

Given the heavy cottage development in nearby places such as Ocean Pond, according to Evans, Whitbourne felt it was important to protect the Hodge River area from any such development pressures.

According to the news release, Whitbournes focus on conservation goes back to 1993.

COMMENDABLE COMMUNITIES

Evans said it was the ongoing conservation work of these municipalities through the years that has led to bringing the provincial and national recognition recently bestowed on these special areas.

He said it was especially commendable for some of the smaller municipalities, with fewer resources, to take such a leadership in their conservation efforts.

We tried to make it as easy for them as possible, but they really built these management structures themselves and they did that of their own volition and the conviction that they wanted to see these areas protected, said Evans.

We, obviously, find that pretty admirable and quite encouraging because I think there are lots of opportunities still for engaging other municipalities.

He noted that municipalities cover a lot of geography and encouraged them to use their planning and development authority to lead the efforts to protect important areas of biodiversity within their jurisdictions.

When you have that conversation over conservation issues brought down to the local level, you can often make great things happen and these communities were way out ahead of it, said Evans.

NTV

Fire at Central Dairies causes extensive damage

Posted: March 12, 2024 7:59 pm

By Becky Daley

Firefighters responded to a fire at Central Dairies late last night, catching the fire before it spread to the main part of the building. However, the building is left with significant damage. NTVs Becky Daley has the latest.

<https://ntv.ca/fire-at-central-dairies-causes-extensive-damage/>

Protesting fish harvesters removed from House of Assembly gallery

Posted: March 12, 2024 7:58 pm

By Bailey Howard

Protesting fish harvesters were removed from the public gallery of the House of Assembly Tuesday. NTVs Bailey Howard reports.

<https://ntv.ca/protesting-fish-harvesters-removed-from-house-of-assembly-gallery/>

BayFM

Deadline extended to have a say about harvesting in the water shed area

Wednesday, 13 March 2024 07:00

CBPPL has proposed to harvest timber adjacent to Eastern Lake and North of Corner Brook Lake; and to construct 2.75kms of road. It involves mechanical timber harvesting using purpose built forestry equipment and excavators to construct the road.

An application by Corner Brook Pulp and paper to harvest wood and build a road in the citys watershed area has changed. The deadline to have a say about this activity in a protected area has been extended until March 29th. On Bayfm with Lenny Benoit, Mayor Jim Parsons says city hall has been receiving a lot of feedback on this and all details can be found on the citys website. CBPPL has proposed to harvest timber adjacent to Eastern Lake and North of Corner Brook Lake; and to construct 2.75kms of road. It involves mechanical timber harvesting using purpose built forestry equipment and excavators to construct the road. The area of the project includes harvesting within a 330 ha footprint and there will be 2 stream crossings. Parsons says the Watershed Committee will make a recommendation to council. Comments can be sent to [planning @cornerbrook.com](mailto:planning@cornerbrook.com).

Intrafish

More than 100 million farmed salmon and trout died in Norway in 2023

The Norwegian Veterinary Institute for the first time reveals mortalities at hatchery stage.

13 March 2024 7:51 GMT UPDATED 13 March 2024 7:51 GMT

By Jan Willie Olsen , Vilde Ferah Molven and Hanna Gezelius

A total of 1,054,000 farmed salmon and rainbow trout died in Norway last year, the highest the industry has seen in Norway to date.

The mortalities are split between 37.7 million salmon and 2.4 million rainbow trout weighing more than 3 grams that died during the hatchery stage, and 62.8 million salmon and 2.5 million rainbow trout that died in net pens at larger sizes.

The Norwegian Veterinary Institute released mortality figures last month and for the first time, the report also reveals how many fish died during the hatchery stage.

At the hatchery stage, 2 million more salmon died last year compared to 2022, whereas rainbow trout saw a slight decrease in both mortality and releases. The way the data is reported, however, makes it difficult to compare percentages between earlier years.

The majority of the health issues remained similar to the preceding year - lice, gill disease and winter sores - but 2023 also saw a significant increase in injuries caused by jellyfish.

Bacterial kidney disease (BKD) and pancreatic disease (PD) also increased last year.

Southern Norway took the brunt of the mortalities: in one of the region's production areas, "Production Area 3", one in four fish died.

The mortality rate for fish in the sea was 16.7 percent in 2023, up from 16.1 percent the previous year.

The Norwegian Seafood Association said earlier this week it wants to halve the industry's mortality rate by 2023.

"I know that poor fish welfare and high mortality in net pens damage my members' professional pride," said Robert Eriksson, CEO of The Norwegian Seafood Association.

The 62 million salmon that do not reach the fish counter corresponds to over 1 billion meals, and this is something the industry cannot accept, Eriksson said.

Also for the first time, the report identifies the main causes of mortality registered, which include infectious diseases (38 percent), injuries (33 percent), physiological causes (4.5 percent) and environmental conditions (2.9 percent). The data is based on information from 355 facilities.

Last week, salmon giant SalMar announced it will invest NOK 500 million (\$47 million/43 million) in a "Salmon Living Lab" in an effort to lower the sector's increasingly concerning salmon mortality rates.

"There is a recognition that the development is going in the wrong direction," SalMar owner Gustav Witzoe told IntraFish at the time. "We find that we have a knowledge gap, and we need to plug this gap. This is our responsibility and there is no one else who can solve this."

Royal Greenland CEO calls for 'clarity' around new fishery law

A pending overhaul of Greenland's fishery law could have huge consequences for the industry.

13 March 2024 6:15 GMT UPDATED 13 March 2024 6:15 GMT

By Hanna Gezelius

In the third of a three-part series, Royal Greenland CEO Susanne Arfelt Rajamand tells IntraFish about proposed new fishery laws in Greenland. [Click here](#) for a story about a new processing site and [here](#) for a story on her strategy for 2024.

Seafood companies in Greenland need clarity on pending changes to fisheries legislation in order to commit to the investment needed to stay competitive, the head of state-owned Royal Greenland told IntraFish.

Greenlands Ministry of Fisheries, Hunting and Agriculture has long proposed an overhaul of fishery laws last updated in the 1990s. As negotiations have dragged on for years, however, seafood producers have become increasingly nervous.

We need clarity, so we can embark on the investments we require to move forward," Royal Greenland CEO Susanne Arfelt Rajamand said in an interview. Clarity is key for us. Its very important.

Seafood is the main industry in Greenland, and Royal Greenlands revenue is equivalent to about three quarters of the entire state budget of DKK 7.5 billion (1 billion/\$1 billion).

The company is the worlds largest supplier of coldwater shrimp and Greenland halibut. It is also Greenlands largest company, with its 1,400-strong workforce accounting for slightly over 2 percent of Greenlands entire population.

As part of the fishery law review, the Ministry of Fisheries, Hunting and Agriculture is proposing that any privately owned company would be permitted to harvest a maximum of 20 percent of the total fishing quota allocated for each specific species.

However, under the current proposal, Arfelt Rajamand revealed Royal Greenland was set to retain its 40 percent quota on halibut and 33 percent quota on shrimp.

This discrepancy has been challenged by one of Greenlands leading private fishing companies, Polar Seafood. Calling the current proposal unfair, its co-CEOs said in an interview last month that Polar Seafoods catch would fall by around 30 percent under the proposed caps.

Arfelt Rajamand said the two companies situations were not comparable.

As a state-owned enterprise, she said, Royal Greenland has extra social responsibilities towards the nation as a whole. It operates 38 sites across Greenland, she said, bringing employment and development to very remote settlements.

It is difficult to compare [with private companies] as we are owned by the people of Greenland, Arfelt Rajamand said. We take this responsibility very seriously.

The new legislation could have huge ramifications not only for Greenlands largest fishing companies, but for the industrys smaller players. Some private companies, for example, have been reluctant to invest in new vessels as uncertainty around future fishing quotas persists.

When you upgrade the fleet, you need to know you have a viable business for the next year, Arfelt Rajamand said.

The new proposal is being put in front of Greenlands parliament this month, after which it will be subject to two further reviews. The earliest it could come into force would be Jan. 1, 2025.

Arfelt Rajamand said Royal Greenland had already put forward its views on the first proposal. She declined to give further details.

Once the new proposal is signed off, the main thing is that we all need to know what to expect, she said. We dont want any grey zones.

Headlines

45 of 175

FISH HARVESTERS PROTEST: More than 150 fish harvesters continue to protest outside the Confederation Building today. They want more control over where they sell their catch. ["Jeffrey Roberts", Fish Harvester; "Elvis Loveless", Fisheries Minister]

CBN - St. John's - Fisheries Broadcast @ 06:10:11pm Duration: 00:13:35 Reporter: Patrick Butler

Ref Id: A3U-7A5-12

HARVESTER TALKS ABOUT INVOLVEMENT IN THE FISHERY: "John Short" from Beaumont talks about his involvement in the fishery from the protest on the steps of Confederation Building. ["John Efford", Harvester and protest organizer]

CBN - St. John's - Fisheries Broadcast @ 06:23:46pm Duration: 00:09:41 Reporter: Patrick Butler

Ref Id: i6G-7v3-12

Craig Renouf

Media Relations Manager

Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture

709-637-2923 (office)

709-640-6922 (cell)

craigrenouf@gov.nl.ca

46 of 175

From: Baldwin, Paul
Sent: Wednesday, March 13, 2024 10:42 AM
To: Shea, Erin, Chippett, Jamie
Subject: March 13 2024 PMR Proposed Amendment - EDITED.pdf
Attachments: March 13 2024 PMR Proposed Amendment - EDITED.pdf

Please find the PDF attached.

Download the free Adobe Acrobat Reader to view and comment on this PDF.

https://www.adobe.com/go/reader_download

Sent From Adobe Acrobat Reader

March 13, 2024 PMR – Proposed Government Amendment

Speaker, I would like to propose the following amendments to the PMR:

- 1) In the therefore be it resolved clause, replacing the word “immediately” with the words “continue to”;
- 2) In the therefore be it resolved clause, inserting immediately following the word “processors” the words and commas “, including the FFAW and ASP,”

The PMR would then read:

WHEREAS for the second year in a row, our province’s fishing industry may be destined for a shutdown over issues such as pricing, leaving frustrated harvesters out of the water protesting instead of on their boats fishing, and leaving fish processing plant workers lacking product to process while days and weeks are lost;

AND WHEREAS these repeated shutdowns in our fishing industry cost our fish harvesters valuable and perhaps irreplaceable fishing time in the short harvesting season, cost our fish processing plant workers the work they need, cost our province an important source of spinoff economic activity in our communities and revenue, and cost Newfoundland and Labrador its reputation as a stable place to do business;

AND WHEREAS many approaches have been proposed in the past and many approaches are in place in other jurisdictions that might offer hope of a resolution to the current impasse and ways of avoiding future impasses — but good solutions are usually found faster when all parties are around the negotiating table working hard on a resolution;

AND WHEREAS an industry as important to Newfoundland and Labrador as the fishing industry requires the hands-on leadership and presence of our province’s top leaders in government, including the Premier and the Fisheries Minister, especially in times of crisis like this;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this Hon. House urge the Premier and the Province’s Minister of Fisheries to continue to take a hands-on role at the table with representatives of our fisheries workers and fish processors, including the FFAW and ASP, to help find a swift and effective resolution of the current impasse, as well as long-term solutions that make future impasses less likely and help place our fishing industry on a more stable and steady footing so the opportunities our province needs are not lost.

48 of 175

From: Chippett, Jamie
Sent: Wednesday, March 13, 2024 10:43 AM
To: Hanlon, Bren M.
Subject: Fwd: March 13 2024 PMR Proposed Amendment - EDITED.pdf
Attachments: March 13 2024 PMR Proposed Amendment - EDITED.pdf

Attachment Previously Included

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Baldwin, Paul" <PaulBaldwin@gov.nl.ca>
Date: March 13, 2024 at 9:11:57 AM EDT
To: "Shea, Erin" <ErinShea@gov.nl.ca>, "Chippett, Jamie" <JamieChippett@gov.nl.ca>
Subject: **March 13 2024 PMR Proposed Amendment - EDITED.pdf**

Please find the PDF attached.

Download the free Adobe Acrobat Reader to view and comment on this PDF.

https://www.adobe.com/go/reader_download

Sent From Adobe Acrobat Reader

49 of 175

From: Chippett, Jamie
Sent: Wednesday, March 13, 2024 11:43 AM
To: Shea, Erin
Subject: RE: SN - Private Members Resolution on Fishery
Attachments: SN - PMR on Fishery REV- March 12 2024.docx

From: Shea, Erin <ErinShea@gov.nl.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, March 13, 2024 4:35 AM
To: Chippett, Jamie <JamieChippett@gov.nl.ca>
Subject: Fwd: SN - Private Members Resolution on Fishery

Did you get SNs for the PMR for approval?? Craig says he sent it to you after QP but I cant find a record of it. I need to give a hard copy and an ecopy to the minister.

Min GB will no doubt write his own, but we have no bullets for Min Crocker. I dont know what else we might need for a PMR. [REDACTED]

29(1)(a)

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Hanlon, Bren M." <BrenHanlon@gov.nl.ca>
Date: March 12, 2024 at 2:54:07 PM NDT
To: "Renouf, Craig" <CraigRenouf@gov.nl.ca>
Cc: "Shea, Erin" <ErinShea@gov.nl.ca>
Subject: RE: SN - Private Members Resolution on Fishery

This looks great, see my few small proposed edits.

Thanks

From: Renouf, Craig <CraigRenouf@gov.nl.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, March 12, 2024 2:44 PM
To: Hanlon, Bren M. <brenhanlon@gov.nl.ca>
Cc: Shea, Erin <ErinShea@gov.nl.ca>
Subject: SN - Private Members Resolution on Fishery

Hi Bren,

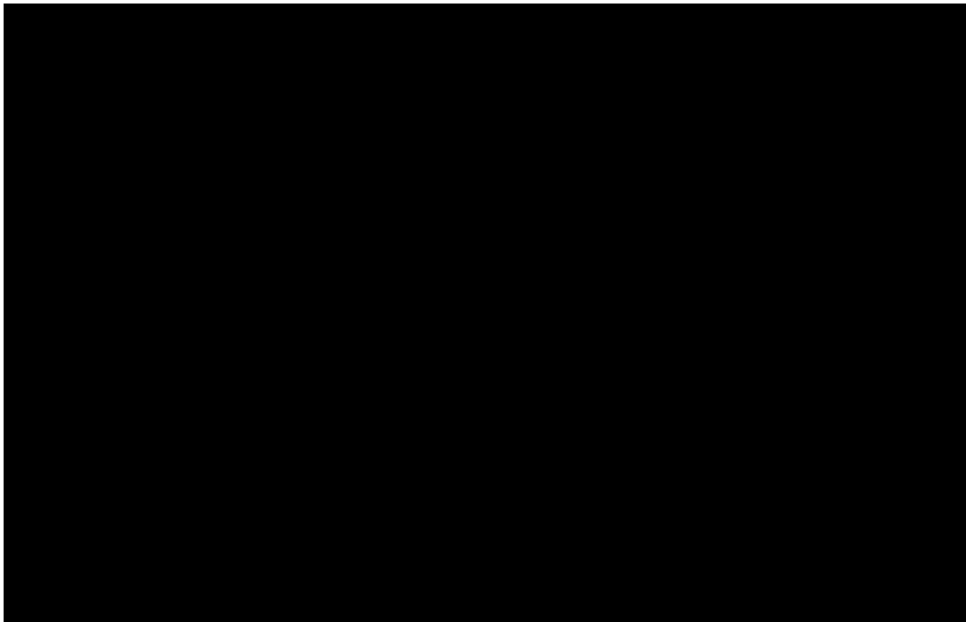
Please find attached for approval speaking drafted for the Minister in reply to tomorrows anticipated opposition PMR.
Thanks, Craig.

Craig Renouf
Media Relations Manager
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709-637-2923 (office)
709-640-6922 (cell)
craigrenouf@gov.nl.ca

Speaking Points

**Honourable Elvis Loveless
Minister of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture
PMR – Support for Provincial Fishing Industry**

- Speaker, I rise today in this Honourable House to discuss Newfoundland and Labrador's vital fisheries sector. The fishing industry continues to be a significant contributor to our province's economy.
- This province exports seafood products in excess of a billion dollars to more than 40 countries every year. There are approximately 17,000 seafood workers in 400 communities who rely on the fishery for their livelihood. We are all aware how important it is to the workers and their families that the fishing sector is as successful as possible.
- Our government recognizes the efforts of fishing sector professionals throughout Newfoundland and Labrador. In the Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture, we are working hard every day with all stakeholders who support sustainable management of our fisheries.



29(1)(a)

- Recently, Premier Furey and I travelled around the province visiting numerous fishing communities, talking to those working in the fishing sector. We met with and

spoke with processors, harvesters and plant workers and more. It was an honour to speak with the hard working individuals and discuss how all can work together and make our fishing industry the best it can be.

- I'm sure we can all recognize that the value of our fishing sector reaches far beyond the amount of money it generates – the hard-working fish harvesters and plant workers in our province produce a world-class product.
- Snow crab is the most valuable seafood product in Newfoundland and Labrador, with exports of over 35 thousand tonnes valued at approximately \$615 million in 2023 accounting for 56 per cent of total seafood exports by value.
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- This was evident during our visit to the Boston Seafood Expo over the weekend. We were honoured to have Premier Furey join us in promoting our province's seafood among the industry leaders at North America's largest seafood expo.
- It was obvious that there is significant global interest in this province's high-quality, sustainable, and nutritious seafood. As I mentioned, our seafood [export](#) sector was valued at more than one billion dollars last year.
- Beyond the work of engaging some of the most important players in the global seafood industry, we took part in discussions with marketing experts, business leaders and industry analysts; making these types of connections often leads to new strategic partnerships and opportunities for the province's fishing industry.

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29(1)(a)

Crab Price-Setting Negotiations

- Everyone who depends on the fishery all want the same thing – an organized and timely start to the season for the benefit of all parties.
- That is why we acted back on September 6 to establish a provincial Fish Price-Setting Strategic Review Team. We wanted to support the development of a formula-based framework for fish price-setting, and other potential mechanisms to address ongoing issues with the current price-setting process.
- The strategic review team's mandate included economic analysis, stakeholder consultations and review of current legislation, policy and regulations, with the

objective of finding a solution that reflects the respective roles and values of the harvesting and processing sectors.

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- Since that time, we have remained in regular contact with the Association of Seafood Producers and the FFAW as they work on coming to an agreement regarding the price of snow crab.
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- As collective bargaining is a legislated process that occurs between the Association of Seafood Producers and FFAW, the Provincial Government can facilitate; however, neither I as the Minister Responsible for Fisheries, nor the Premier nor the Minister Responsible for Labour, have a place at this table.
- We continue to encourage both organizations to remain at the table and reach an agreement. As we have said, we want harvesters on the water and people working in the fish plants and are doing whatever we can so that this happens as soon as possible.

29(1)(a)

29(1)(a)

From: Shea, Erin
Sent: Wednesday, March 13, 2024 12:04 PM
To: Chippett, Jamie
Subject: UPDATED FOR QUICK REVIEW: SN - PMR on Fishery - March 12 2024 REV.docx
Attachments: SN - PMR on Fishery - March 12 2024 REV.docx

Jamie, Here is the final version I have highlighted a word or two for you to look at. Otherwise, when good I will send it to Min, you, Paul, Bren and Craig.

Speaking Points

Honourable Elvis Loveless

Minister of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture

PMR Support for Provincial Fishing Industry

- Speaker, I rise today in this Honourable House to discuss Newfoundland and Labrador's vital fisheries sector. The fishing industry continues to be a significant contributor to our province's economy.
- This province exports seafood products in excess of a billion dollars to more than 40 countries every year. There are approximately 17,000 seafood workers in 400 communities who rely on the fishery for their livelihood. We are all aware how important it is to the workers and their families that the fishing sector is as successful as possible.
- Our government recognizes the efforts of fishing sector professionals throughout Newfoundland and Labrador. In the Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture, we are working hard every day with all stakeholders who support sustainable management of our fisheries.
- My Department takes an active role in management decisions made by the federal minister; the marketing of seafood through such events as the North American Seafood Expo in Boston; administering programs such as the Atlantic Fisheries Fund that have benefitted numerous harvesters and processors throughout Newfoundland and Labrador; and licencing and enforcement relating to the processing sector.
- Beyond the ongoing day-to-day work, the Premier and I have been **seized [consumed with? Or busy ?]** with modernizing the fishery to ensure that all aspects of the fishery are positioned for even greater success. A viable fishery requires a well managed resource, harvesters to fish the resource, and a processing sector that can produce the higher value products desired by markets. This, of course, is done by the fish plant workers across our province.
- We continue to engage with the federal fisheries Minister on redfish, cod and the Atlantic Fisheries Fund, to name a few items. I met with the Honourable Dianne Lebouthillier in Boston to discuss these very topics on the past weekend.

- Through the Premier's leadership, a new fish pricing panel was put in place and a formula was developed that provided a modern means to address price setting and other issues based on market prices throughout the year.
- Recently, Premier Furey and I travelled around the province visiting numerous fishing communities, talking to those working in the fishing sector. We met with and spoke with processors, harvesters and plant workers and more. It was an honour to speak with these hard working individuals and discuss how all can work together and make our fishing industry the best it can be.
- I'm sure we can all recognize that the value of our fishing sector reaches far beyond the amount of money it generates – the hard-working fish harvesters and plant workers in our province produce a world-class product.
- Snow crab is the most valuable seafood product in Newfoundland and Labrador, with exports of over 35 thousand tonnes valued at approximately \$615 million in 2023 accounting for 56 per cent of total seafood exports by value.
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- Beyond the work of engaging some of the most important players in the global seafood industry, we took part in discussions with marketing experts, business leaders and industry analysts; making these types of connections often leads to new strategic partnerships and opportunities for the province's fishing industry.
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Crab Price-Setting Negotiations

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- These issues have not been substantively reviewed for considerable time, and we think the time is right to look at these issues in a comprehensive fashion.
- We want the strongest fishing industry that we can build we want to see those in the fishing industry thrive and succeed in building prosperity for themselves and for the entirety of Newfoundland and Labrador.
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Speaking Points

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From: [Renouf, Craig](#)
Sent: [Wednesday, March 13, 2024 12:20 PM](#)
To: [Loveless, Elvis](#), [Chippett, Jamie](#), [Baldwin, Paul](#), [Hanlon, Bren M.](#), [Shea, Erin](#)
Subject: [MORE MEDIA - March 13, 2024](#)

CBC

For a 2nd day, harvesters call on N.L. government to open market to outside buyers

Protesters gathered at fisheries building, blocking entrance

Elizabeth Whitten 7 CBC News 7 Posted: Mar 13, 2024 11:21 AM NDT | Last Updated: 1 hour ago

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/newfoundland-labrador/crab-protest-petten-building-1.7142290>

FFAW Website

DFO S UPDATE ON CAPELIN BRINGS STOCK OUT OF CRITICAL ZONE

HOME ; DFO S UPDATE ON CAPELIN BRINGS STOCK OUT OF CRITICAL ZONE

March 13, 2024

Today s stock assessment update from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Science team brought welcomed news to harvesters in Newfoundland and Labrador today. In line with the revised northern cod LRP in 2023, the 2J3KL capelin stock is no longer in the critical zone. While healthy and cautious zones have not yet been defined, this move is well-received by those who rely on the commercial fishery.

The small capelin fishery is important for our coastal communities both in terms of the additional income it provides for fish harvesters who can diversify their business model, and also for plant workers who need those additional days of work during the fishing season, explains Greg Pretty, FFAW-Unifor President.

Even a small capelin quota has a big impact for our enterprise, so we re certainly pleased to see this news come from DFO Science today, says Ivan Batten, fish harvester from Port de Grave who participated in the assessment process as a harvester representative.

The capelin fishery has the potential for landed values of \$20 million or more per year, however the fishery has not been prosecuted to its full extent in recent years due to processors not buying while the season is open. FFAW-Unifor has been in communication with the provincial government to ensure that capacity will be available for harvesters this season when needed for the time-sensitive fishery.

Our members will be satisfied to see the changes made here today by DFO Science today and we re hopeful for a profitable capelin fishery this year for our province, Pretty concludes.

NTV

DFO s Update on Capelin Brings Stock Out of Critical Zone

Posted: March 13, 2024 11:06 am

By Becky Daley

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DFO Website

Minister Lebouthillier promotes renewed Team Canada engagement at Seafood Expo North America

<https://www.canada.ca/en/fisheries-oceans/news/2024/03/minister-lebouthillier-promotes-renewed-team-canada-engagement-at-seafood-expo-north-america.html>

Craig Renouf

Media Relations Manager

Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture

709-637-2923 (office)

709-640-6922 (cell)

craigrenouf@gov.nl.ca

From: Shea, Erin
Sent: Wednesday, March 13, 2024 12:35 PM
To: Baldwin, Paul
Cc: Chippett, Jamie, Hanlon, Bren M., Renouf, Craig
Subject: FW: PMR Notes
Attachments: SN - PMR on Fishery - March 12 2024 REV.docx, [REDACTED]

non-responsive

Hi Paul, As discussed, here are the SNs for the PMR. I m copying Bren and Craig as an FYI or for his files.

I m also attaching the final version of the Min Statement in the font size Min likes.

I ll be at the building around 1pm if you need anything!

From: Baldwin, Paul <PaulBaldwin@gov.nl.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, March 13, 2024 11:04 AM
To: Shea, Erin <ErinShea@gov.nl.ca>
Cc: Chippett, Jamie <JamieChippett@gov.nl.ca>
Subject: RE: PMR Notes

Thanks E

From: Shea, Erin <ErinShea@gov.nl.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, March 13, 2024 11:03 AM
To: Baldwin, Paul <PaulBaldwin@gov.nl.ca>
Cc: Chippett, Jamie <JamieChippett@gov.nl.ca>
Subject: RE: PMR Notes

Absolutely. There s just a small adjustment and I ll send it right back to you. I have the Min Statement sent to you to print as well for this afternoon, but I will be nearby if you need my help at all.

From: Baldwin, Paul <PaulBaldwin@gov.nl.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, March 13, 2024 11:01 AM
To: Shea, Erin <ErinShea@gov.nl.ca>
Cc: Chippett, Jamie <JamieChippett@gov.nl.ca>
Subject: PMR Notes

Hi Erin:

40(1)

Can you email me the notes once they are done so I can print for Minister. [REDACTED]

Paul

Speaking Points

Honourable Elvis Loveless Minister of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture PMR – Support for Provincial Fishing Industry

- Speaker, I rise today in this Honourable House to discuss Newfoundland and Labrador's vital fisheries sector. The fishing industry continues to be a significant contributor to our province's economy.
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From: Renouf, Craig
Sent: Thursday, March 14, 2024 10:25 AM
To: Loveless, Elvis, Chippett, Jamie, Baldwin, Paul, Hanlon, Bren M., Adams, Blair, Balsom, Stephen, Deering, Keith, Shea, Erin, Skinner, Linda
Subject: MORNING MEDIA - March 14, 2024

CBC

Warming waters send Gaspé northern shrimp stock plummeting, spelling trouble for Quebec fishermen

Fishermen have been 'losing money by the truckload,' says shrimp farming group

Joe Bongiorno CBC News Posted: Mar 14, 2024 5:30 AM NDT | Last Updated: 4 hours ago

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/gasp%C3%A9-northern-shrimp-quebec-1.7142741>

VOCM

Opposition PCs Livid as House Closes Early Ahead of Budget Day

Mar 14, 2024 | 6:03 AM

The House of Assembly has adjourned until next Wednesday, Budget Day, after sitting for just under two weeks.

The reason, according to the Premiers Office, is that all of the necessary business for this session was concluded quicker than expected, prior to the budget being brought down.

The House closure is not sitting well with the Official Opposition, however.

Since the Legislature opened March 4, the public galleries have been filled with people, mostly fish harvesters and, for one day, members of and advocates for people still living in the tent encampment outside the Colonial Building in downtown St. Johns.

PC Leader Tony Wakeham argues there is now no forum for public accountability for the rest of this week and into the next, all while issues such as the fishery, health care, housing, and overall affordability grip the province.

Wakeham accuses government of running from their questions.

He believes they have run out of ideas and plans, and have nothing to bring and nothing to fill the few hours of debate that the House is open.

The Telegram

Were going to end the war on work: Poilievre

Tory leader begins four day N.L. tour amid fishery protest

The Telegram (St. John's) 14 Mar 2024 JUANITA MERCER THE TELEGRAM juanita.mercer@thetelegram.com

[@juanitamercer_](https://www.thetelegram.com/@juanitamercer_)

JOE GIBBONS THE TELEGRAM

Riding high in the polls, federal Conservative Leader Pierre Poilievre touched down in Newfoundland this week for a four-day tour to spread his "Spike the Hike Axe the Tax" message.

He landed in St. Johns on Tuesday, the same day fish harvesters shut down the provincial legislature protesting for a greater say in the way they do business.

The harvesters were still protesting on the steps of the Confederation Building on Wednesday when Poilievre visited the Carpenter Millwrights College about 15 kilometres away in Paradise.

In the millwright workshop, students gathered to hear him speak.

Were going to end the war on work, Poilievre told them.

It doesnt pay to work. The government often gets more of your money than you do, he said.

We will lower income tax so that you bring home more of each dollar you earn, and hard work actually pays off. To pay for it were going to cut the (government) waste and cap the spending.

Poilievres speech was filled with promises of what a Conservative government, if elected, would do for people in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Some of his promises included a tax break for tradespeople who have to travel for work; more home construction; faster approval of resource projects; a financing system for fish harvesters similar to farm credit; greater flexibility for provinces in how they spend childcare funds so that more groups, such as grandparents who babysit, can qualify for money; and, as his slogan says, hed eliminate the carbon tax.

FISH HARVESTER QUESTIONS POILIEVRE

During a question and answer session after the speech, a young man walked forward from the back of the crowd with a question about the fishery.

Were fighting for free enterprise, the young man said, his hands in his pockets.

And all theyre coming back with is this formula they wants. They wants to make new formulas and all that. How do you plan on helping us out?

The young man told Poilievre the fish harvesters want to be able to sell to whomever they want, and not be stuck with one buyer.

I understand, Poilievre said. And the buyers should have to compete for your catch so that they give you a better price.

Yeah, the man said.

If youre a captive seller, then you have to give the buyer whatever they want at whatever price they choose, so we need to have competition so that the fish harvesters can get the best price for their catch, and common sense Conservatives are going to work on making it possible for young fishermen (and) fisherwomen to get the financing they need, independent from their buyer, so that they dont have to take whatever price theyre given. They can actually take their catch around to multiple different buyers and get the best possible price, Poilievre said.

Thats right, the man nodded.

Do you agree with that? Poilievre asked.

One hundred per cent, the man replied.

OK. Lets bring it home, Poilievre said, his oft-repeated slogan, which was met with applause from most of the students.

FISHERIES ACCORD

Back at the Confederation Building, fish harvesters parked their trucks on the front lot and lined the stairs.

Inside the House of Assembly, there were more of them still. They sat in the public gallery as the Progressive Conservatives continued to hammer the governing Liberals to do more to address issues in the fishery.

Progressive Conservative Leader Tony Wakeham said Churchill Falls wasnt the biggest giveaway in the provinces history; he said the biggest giveaway was in 1949 when Newfoundland gave Canada control of its fisheries.

Wakeham called the fishery our renewable megaproject. He said theres an Atlantic Accord for offshore oil, and there can also be an accord for the fishery.

We will continue to fight for that, he said.

Earlier on Wednesday, Saltwire asked Poilievre if his party were to form government, would he give this province more control over the fishery?

I think we need to definitely be more responsive to the Atlantic provinces who are most impacted by the decisions, and Im working with common sense Conservative MPS to figure out how best to do that, Poilievre said.

Capelin status improves, but stock still faces challenges

Population of capelin, most of which die after spawning, is now dominated by relatively young fish

The Telegram (St. John's)14 Mar 2024GARY KEAN THE TELEGRAM gary.kean @thewesternstar.com @western_star
BARB DEAN-SIMMONS SALTWIRE

CORNER BROOK It doesnt mean there are more capelin in the ocean, but the tiny forage fish that plays a crucial role in the food chain has been lifted out of the critical zone.

The announcement of the stocks status in 2J3KL the management area extending from Labrador southward to St. Marys Bay was made by Hannah Murphy, a research scientist with the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), during a technical briefing for members of the media on Wednesday, March 13.

The limit reference point, which represents the stock status below which serious harm is occurring to the stock, for 2J3KL capelin has been revised from 640 kilotonnes to 155 kilotonnes.

Murphy said the capelin stock has primarily been above this revised limit reference point since 2007. It is projected to remain above the updated reference point in 2024, with a 10-17 per cent probability of being in the critical zone.

Murphy said the drastic change is related to the updated limit reference point for northern cod, which was revised in the fall of 2023 after a new modelling approach had been applied to interpret historical data.

Northern cods status is dependent on capelin status, she explained, and lifting cod out of the critical zone and into the cautious zone led to revising capelins status.

Its a large change, said Murphy.

It doesnt mean there is more capelin, but its our perception of how many capelin are needed for cod that has changed.

The annual spring stock assessment for northern cod is due next week and will determine if that species will remain in the cautious zone.

CAPELIN MATURING SOONER

Capelin still face many challenges, cautioned Murphy. The stock remains well below its productive status before it collapsed in the 1980s.

As she outlined, fewer fish means less competition for food. This has led to capelin tending to maturing sooner and a population dominated by relatively young fish.

Capelin mature at a specific length and not a certain age. Nearly all capelin die after they spawn.

Murphy said studies of the stock, which once saw capelin as old as six years, are now seeing far fewer fish beyond two or three years of age.

Younger capelin tend to spawn later in the summer, and produce fewer eggs and less robust larva. Newly hatched fish are also poor swimmers, less capable of surviving the winter months.

Capelin plays a crucial role in our ocean ecosystem, said Murphy. It is an essential food source for many larger species, including cod. Given its importance to the marine ecosystem, we will continue to monitor the factors impacting this stock.

THE FISHERY

In 2023, there was a total allowable catch of 14,533 tonnes for capelin, 78 per cent of which was landed by harvesters.

Murphy said the total allowable catch doesn't always reflect the availability of fish in the ecosystem. She said market forces play a significant role in determining how much should be caught, including how much product is available on the market from fisheries in other jurisdictions before the Newfoundland and Labrador fishery opens.

While healthy and cautious zones for capelin have not yet been defined, the stock assessment update was welcome news to FFAW-unifor, the union that represents the province's fish harvesters and fish plant workers.

The small capelin fishery is important for our coastal communities both in terms of the additional income it provides for fish harvesters who can diversify their business model and also for plant workers who need those additional days of work during the fishing season, Greg Pretty, FFAW-unifor's president, said in a new release.

Ivan Batten, a fish harvester from Port de Grave who participated in the assessment process as a harvester representative, agreed.

Even a small capelin quota has a big impact for our enterprise, so we're certainly pleased to see this news come from DFO Science today, he stated in the same union news release.

The capelin fishery, the FFAW's prepared statement noted, has the potential for landed values of \$20 million or more per year. However, the fishery has not been prosecuted to its full extent in recent years due to processors not buying while the season is open.

The FFAW said it has been in communication with the provincial government to ensure that capacity will be available for harvesters this season when needed for the time-sensitive fishery.

Our members will be satisfied to see the changes made here today by DFO Science and were hopeful for a profitable capelin fishery this year for our province, said Pretty.

NTV

Fish harvesters block Confederation Building

Posted: March 13, 2024 8:01 pm

Fish harvesters blocked the front of Confederation Building Wednesday as they called on the government to open the market to outside buyers. NTV's Bailey Howard reports.

<https://ntv.ca/fish-harvesters-block-confederation-building/>

Opposition leader calls for quick action to support dairy industry following Central Dairies fire

Posted: March 13, 2024 12:15 pm

Following Tuesdays sitting at the House of Assembly, PC leader Tony Wakeham called for government to assess the situation and to act quickly to support farmers and workers in the dairy industry following a fire at Central Dairies on Monday night:

<https://ntv.ca/opposition-leader-calls-for-quick-action-to-support-dairy-industry-following-central-dairies-fire/>

Intrafish

Farmed salmon could see explosive production growth, but there is a hitch

Hundreds of thousands of additional metric tons could be on the market to meet the growing demand.

13 March 2024 22:47 GMT UPDATED 13 March 2024 22:49 GMT

The biggest overarching challenge facing the global salmon farming sector is growth, full stop.

Despite booming demand over the past decade and counting, production is simply not keeping up. Last year, the roughly 2.8 million metric tons of farmed salmon harvested was 2 percent lower than the year prior, and according to market watcher Kontali, this year will see a 1 percent rise in production, assuming there are no major mortality events (a big assumption).

The industry is hunting far and wide for answers to its growth problems, and has jumped enthusiastically from idea to idea. Land-based salmon farming is projected, eventually, to bring hundreds of thousands of metric tons onto world markets. Offshore farming could open up new waters around the globe and deliver its own massive volumes. Iceland show some promise as a significant producer.

While all of the above may one day be significant contributing factor to farmed salmon growth, the reality is, real volumes are not only wildly speculative, but reaching those volumes is a long way away.

The good news is, there is a massive volume of farmed salmon available for sale on world markets. The bad news is, most of it ends up dead.

New statistics from the Norwegian Veterinary Institute show that, taken together with hatchery fish, 1.05 million salmon died last year: around 37.7 million salmon at the hatchery stage and 62.8 million salmon in netpens at larger sizes.

Bear with me while I do some fantasy math. A quick back-of-the-napkin calculation, based on a magic 4-kilo fish, means that if the total number of farmed Atlantic salmon that died in Norway last year grew to full size, we'd be looking at over 400,000 metric tons of additional volume on the market (minus a percentage for heads and guts).

And that's just Norway. In Scotland, for example, a record 17.4 million salmon died last year, according to that country's fish health inspectorate.

A new analysis published in the journal Nature analyzed mortalities across the Norway, Chile, Scotland, Canada, Australia and New Zealand over the past decade, and found 865 million fish died in the decade between 2012-2022. By the way, Norway's losses in the period, estimated at 477 million, makes up around 55 percent of the total, and was more than all the other five countries combined. Using my patented 4-kilo formula, 3.46 billion metric tons of farmed salmon went missing from peoples' mouths.

Of course, these numbers would never come to pass for a huge range of reasons. And of course, there will never be zero mortality at salmon farms or hatcheries. However, the mortality rate of salmon farming is far higher than it should be. If the industry wants to catch up with chicken or cattle, where average mortality has been around 5 percent and 2 percent, respectively, improving its husbandry would be a great first start.

"Salmon is the only industry where the worse its fish do, the more profitable it gets," a CEO at one salmon farming company told me at the North Atlantic Seafood Forum earlier this month.

While he was kidding, there is no doubt that salmon farming's flat production growth, thanks in part to its high mortalities, has sparked the current super profit cycle.

With margins being what they are, the industry hasn't felt the urgency it should have. But as global demand for salmon rises, producers fear a drag on consumption could eventually come if prices continue to push into higher and higher territory. With salmon being the tip of the spear for seafood consumption in the Western world, it should concern everyone in the industry.

There are investments being put into research to reduce salmon mortalities, including most recently Norwegian billionaire Gustav Witzoe's announcement that he would build a NOK 500 million (\$47 million/43 million) in what it is calling a "Salmon Living Lab" to try to address the issue of high mortalities.

It's not near enough, but it's a start, and to use Witzoe's words, the project is "a recognition that the development is going in the wrong direction."

Headlines

FISH HARVESTERS OUTSIDE CONFEDERATION BUILDING: Fish harvesters have been attending proceedings of the House of Assembly since this sitting began. They have been in the public gallery and yesterday they were ejected by the Speaker of the House. Today there were no real outbursts from the public gallery but fish harvesters are outside the Confederation Building listening to the debate so members of media are blocked in by the vehicles owned by harvesters. ["Richard Duggan" VOXM]

VOXM - St. John's - News Talk @ 04:21:38pm Duration: 00:04:39 Reporter: Linda Swain

Ref Id: G9M-8G3-13

WILDFIRE RISK: It's been just months since Canada's wildfire season came to a close but already some firefighters are on high alert. ["Robert McLeamon", Professor of Environmental Studies]

CBN - St. John's - On The Go @ 05:24:12pm Duration: 00:05:23 Reporter:

Ref Id: V5J-8M5-13

MAINTAINING NL'S MILK SUPPLY: A fire at Central Dairies is leaving the company and others scrambling to maintain the provincial milk supply. ["Mylene Dupere", VP of Communications with Agropur]

CBN - St. John's - On The Go @ 05:40:35pm Duration: 00:04:43 Reporter:

Ref Id: z8F-9N8-13

LIBRARY STARTS HYDROPONIC GARDEN: The Labrador City Library has turned over a new leaf and started a hydroponic garden so now residents can have some of the harvest. ["Alicia Hodder", Library Assistant]

CFGB - Goose Bay - Labrador Morning Show @ 07:22:29am Duration: 00:06:33 Reporter: Darryl Dinn

Ref Id: T7b-5x2-14

Craig Renouf

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From: Renouf, Craig
Sent: Thursday, March 14, 2024 4:05 PM
To: Loveless, Elvis, Chippett, Jamie, Hanlon, Bren M., Baldwin, Paul, Shea, Erin
Subject: FFAW CALLS FOR DRASTIC CHANGES TO PROVINCIAL PROCESSING LICENSING

FFAW CALLS FOR DRASTIC CHANGES TO PROVINCIAL PROCESSING LICENSING AMID HARVESTER PROTESTS IN ST. JOHN'S

March 14, 2024

FFAW-Unifor is calling on the provincial government to listen to protesting fish harvesters by lifting all processing caps in the province, grant new processing licenses, and remove restrictions on outside buyers. The FFAW is also looking for a commitment from the provincial government to undertake an independent review of the province's processing licensing policy.

Fish harvesters in our province have been disadvantaged long enough. The situation has gotten so severe in recent years that a very large number are now facing imminent bankruptcy due to the cartel-like environment processing companies enjoy here in Newfoundland and Labrador, explains Greg Pretty, FFAW-Unifor. When fish harvesters cannot find a buyer for their catch we have a serious problem. This province cannot have a thriving fishery if fish harvesters are not succeeding, and the current wall of opposition they face makes success unattainable, Pretty says.

In recent years, fish harvesters in Newfoundland and Labrador have been faced with strict weekly limits, unfounded deductions, plants that chose not to process certain species, and others who refused to purchase from certain harvesters. All of which amounts to a very toxic business relationship for both harvesters and plant workers, says lead protestor, John Efford. More competition and market access for harvesters is needed. We want free enterprise, Efford says.

The business environment in our province is anti-harvester plain and simple, says FFAW-Unifor Secretary-Treasurer Jason Spingle. There is no accountability for processing companies. People are losing their enterprises, and our Union will not just stand by and watch that happen, Spingle says.

While thousands of Newfoundlanders and Labradorians benefit from seasonal processing work, the bulk of companies brought in Temporary Foreign Workers rather than focus on improving work for those who live in the province.

Every single processing job in this province is important. Our entire province benefits the most when the work stays here. Unfortunately, the privilege bestowed on processing companies is being abused, existing licenses are underutilized, and we do not have the capacity needed to process what is being brought in each season. The system must change if we have any hope of a future for the owner-operator fishery in our province, Pretty concludes.

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From: Renouf, Craig
Sent: Friday, March 15, 2024 9:57 AM
To: Loveless, Elvis, Chippett, Jamie, Baldwin, Paul, Hanlon, Bren M., Adams, Blair, Balsom, Stephen, Deering, Keith, Shea, Erin, Skinner, Linda
Subject: MORNING MEDIA - March 15, 2024

CBC

FFAW sides with protesting members, demands open market for harvesters' catch

Announcement comes after union negotiator resigns from price formula negotiations

Mike Moore 7 CBC News 7 Posted: Mar 14, 2024 2:16 PM NDT | Last Updated: March 14

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/newfoundland-labrador/ffaw-jake-rice-steps-down-1.7143558>

VOCM

PCs Disappointed After Government Closes Legislature Ahead of Budget

Mar 15, 2024 | 8:43 AM

The Progressive Conservative Party is labelling the government's closing of the provincial legislature as being disrespectful.

On Wednesday evening, to the shock of the opposition members, government closed down the legislature for two sitting days until budget day next Wednesday.

PC Leader Tony Wakeham says there are at least 13 bills that have been left on the table. Opposition House Leader Barry Petten says one of those is the important Crown Lands Act.

What they debated instead, according to Petten, was a lot of routine material.

Petten contends that is was some of the lamest legislation, and debate consisted of things such as changing the wording of bills.

Fisheries Minister Seeking FFAW's Position on Free Enterprise

Mar 15, 2024 | 7:00 AM

Fisheries Minister Seeking FFAW's Position on Free Enterprise

Fisheries Minister Elvis Loveless has written the head of the FFAW to seek the union's position of allowing outside buyers in the snow crab industry.

In a letter to President Greg Pretty, Loveless states that government is prepared to issue an expression of interest for outside buyers, but first they need input from the union.

Calls for free enterprise in the industry have been the main issue for fish harvesters protesting at Confederation Building over the last two weeks.

Loveless references Secretary Treasurer Jason Spingle being present at the rally yesterday, and is looking for confirmation that such a move would be supported by the FFAW, and that it wouldn't have a negative impact on its members or plant workers.

He says the decision to allow outside buyers must consider impacts on all partners in the industry particularly on plant workers.

Further, Loveless states that they are willing to look at all proposals to move the fishery forward, provided that the impacts of such actions are well planned and understood.

Loveless has requested that he receive a response from the union by the end of day today.

VOCM Question of the Day

Do you support the concept of "free enterprise" in the province's fishing industry (i.e. allowing harvesters to sell to outside buyers)?

Yes: 75%

No: 25%

The Telegram

Catch and release of salmon a failed experiment

The Telegram (St. John's) 15 Mar 2024

The catch and release experiment began here in 1984 after serious lobbying by a U.S. business lobby group called the Atlantic Salmon Federation (ASF). ASF pushed it as a conservation measure as its donors wanted access to the best salmon fishing spots in this province because U.S. Atlantic salmon populations had declined to less than 1,000. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) succumbed to the pressure from ASF. They planned it as a trial conservation measure and estimated the salmon mortality rate at 10 per cent. Science on catch and release was very weak at the time.

Fast forward to 2024 and science, which is very strong on the subject, has proven that catch and release is not conserving salmon but instead posing a dangerous threat to salmon stocks. DFO still refuses to discuss or review catch and release. The mortality rate with climate change is at least 50 per cent. In fact, many river temperatures during peak salmon fishing reach 24C, causing 100 per cent mortality. Hotter river temperatures are expected again this summer.

DFO has failed to protect or conserve Atlantic salmon in Newfoundland and Labrador from catch and release anglers. When salmon enter our rivers, they face injury and death by catch and release anglers by the thousands. Broken bones, eye and throat injuries, embedded hooks with lead and bladder injuries are common. Most injuries are inflicted on female salmon as 75-85 per cent of salmon in our waters are female. Millions of female eggs are destroyed and female salmon cannot reach their ideal spawning areas due to exhaustion. Their exposure to air during release also reduces their spawning ability. Future generations of salmon are being destroyed.

The 2024 salmon regulations for catch and release will allow about 100,000 salmon to be injured, 20,000 salmon to be killed, wasting 100,000 pounds of wild Atlantic salmon. Catch and release angling has increased the pressure on salmon stocks fourfold.

The total number of salmon harvested or killed yearly is more today than prior to 1984. The difference today is that you can only eat about 12,000 salmon, the other 20,000 salmon killed by catch and release are wasted. Totally insane!

Prior to 1984 with a retention fishery only, an average of 32,000 salmon were being retained and eaten. No salmon were intentionally injured. Now the focus is on injuring salmon not eating them. If stocks can sustain this harvest, better to retain and eat them. Banning catch and release would eliminate the injuries on 100,000 salmon and the destruction of millions of salmon eggs annually, allowing stocks to rebound.

DFO have been ethically and morally bankrupt in protecting salmon. No other wildlife species are allowed to be tortured and killed for fun. If wildlife officials applied similar catch and release type regulations to moose, allowing 300 moose to be injured and two moose retained per season per hunter, there would be a revolt among hunters. But when it happens to salmon, both DFO and the province turn a blind eye even promote it with educational videos. They are ignoring animal welfare rights and supporting cruelty on animals for no good reason.

Both DFO and the province have caved in to business interest which puts profits above protection of salmon.

ASF has been a negative influence on salmon populations in this province for forty years systematically destroying wild salmon with its catch and release experiment. It believes no one should ever catch and eat a salmon again. Rivers should be catch and release only. It wants the rivers to themselves no more locals on the river. It has pitched the government to privatize the rivers.

ASF has to recognise that its catch and release experiment has failed. Instead of increasing salmon populations, it's decreasing salmon populations and damaging thousands of salmon. That damage will be hard to reverse.

It's time for ASF to butt out of trying to manage the recreational salmon fishing in Newfoundland and Labrador.

The general public must get engaged in this controversy, because wild salmon as a good healthy food supplement, is disappearing fast.

Those working for outfitters must also speak up about any abuse of salmon or regulations. They should not be afraid of speaking truth to power. The future of salmon fishing depends on it.

Local anglers are ticked off seeing recreation salmon angling being completely destroyed under ASF's influence and DFO's complicity with them. Climate change has increased the urgency of saving the Atlantic salmon because as water temperature increases so do the mortality. We're at a point now where nearly every salmon released will die and thousands injured just for fun. Salmon populations cannot sustain that kind of pressure.

Both ASF and DFO must recognize that the catch and release experiment has failed and stop it.

Anglers are on the verge of a revolt. The voice of experience and those who want to save the salmon are falling on deaf ears. It's time for the all residents who want protect a good sustainable food supply to stand up and be counted. We cannot stand idly by while our rivers are being taken over by business and salmon are needlessly killed and wasted. It's time for a serious change. The province must make catch and release illegal in 2024.

Let's take back our rivers before it's too late. It's time for everyone to write your MHA and MP expressing your concerns today. Robert Sheppard President of Ban Catch and Release NL Logy Bay

NTV

Fishery protest continues amid House closure as government considers allowing outside buyers

Posted: March 14, 2024 7:46 pm

Fish harvesters continued their protests Thursday even though the House of Assembly has closed until next week's budget. Now, the government may give into one of their key demands to allow buyers from outside the province. NTV's Ben Cleary reports.

<https://ntv.ca/fishery-protest-continues-amid-house-closure-as-government-considers-allowing-outside-buyers/>

Federal PC leader "disappointed" after hearing about the House of Assembly closing early

Friday, 15 March 2024 07:00

Pierre Poilievre says people want their issues to be heard, especially fish harvesters on the steps of Confederation building.

The leader of the Federal Conservatives agrees now is not the right time to close the House of Assembly. Pierre Poilievre was on the west coast yesterday and held a meet and greet in Corner Brook last night. Pierre Poilievre started a tour of the province on Tuesday. He says people want their issues to be heard, especially fish harvesters on the steps of Confederation building. Poilievre has spent a lot of time talking with people along the way and he's hearing people can't afford to live.. Poilievre will be in New Brunswick today.

Innu Nation News Release

FIRST NATIONS OF QUEBEC AND LABRADOR MEET TO DISCUSS MATTERS OF NATIONAL CONCERN

Media Release

March 14, 2024

Sheshatshiu, Nitassinan - The Innu of Quebec and Labrador and the Naskapi Nation of Kawawachikamach met today to discuss matters of national concern, including the proposed reintroduction of low-level flying over Nitassinan and Nuchimiyuschiy, mental health and addictions, the false claims to indigeneity by the NunatuKavut Community Council and the protection of the important spiritual and cultural link between the Innu, the Naskapi and caribou.

Indigenous peoples have a long tradition of gathering together in Nitassinan and Nuchimiyuschiy to discuss issues of mutual concern, to share in cultural practices and to promote the well-being of First Nation's people in the region. The elected leaders who met today stated that the imposition by settler governments and the crown and the impact of colonization on the First Nation's people on Nitassinan and Nuchimiyuschiy has ignored the inherent rights of the Innu and Naskapi peoples, including the right to be self-governing; and that imposed legislation and policies of settler governments have caused great harm.

The elected leaders in attendance have agreed to meet on a regular basis to work towards advancing matters of mutual concern.

Headlines

UNION SUPPORTS FISH HARVESTERS CAUSE: The FFAW is now calling on the province to listen to the protesting fish harvesters. ["John Efford", Fish Harvester]

CBN - St. John's - Fisheries Broadcast @ 06:10:21pm Duration: 00:07:11 Reporter:

Ref Id: U9X-6z4-14

REDFISH: Just before the latest blow up in the fishery harvesters were up in arms over redfish quotas. ["Carolyn Sinea", Biologist]

CBN - St. John's - Fisheries Broadcast @ 06:17:54pm Duration: 00:10:52 Reporter: Todd O'Brien

Ref Id: E4z-5k4-14

Craig Renouf

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80 of 175

From: Loveless, Elvis
Sent: Friday, March 15, 2024 4:08 PM
To: Chippett, Jamie
Cc: Hanlon, Bren M.
Subject: FW: Letter to Minister Loveless
Attachments: FFAW letter to Elvis Loveless 2024[77][1].pdf

From: Greg Pretty <GPretty@ffaw.ca>
Sent: Friday, March 15, 2024 3:52 PM
To: Loveless, Elvis <ElvisLoveless@gov.nl.ca>
Subject: Letter to Minister Loveless

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.

Good Afternoon Minister Loveless,

Please see the attached letter.

Kindest Regards,

Greg Pretty
President
Fish, Food and Allied Workers (FFAW-Unifor)
368 Hamilton Avenue., PO Box 10, Stn C
St. John s, NL A1C 5H5
www.ffaw.ca



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GREG PRETTY
President

JASON SPINGLE
Secretary-Treasurer

March 15, 2024

Elvis Loveless
Minister Department of Fisheries, Forestry, and Agriculture
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador

Dear Minister Loveless,

Thank you for your letter on March 14th, 2024. Harvesters who have been protesting at government buildings in recent days and weeks represent the vast majority of our inshore membership, comprised over nearly 10,000 inshore, commercial fish harvesters and 4,000 owner-operator enterprises. These members are asking for **free enterprise**.

We can confirm, as was stated in our public media release yesterday afternoon, that FFAW-Unifor is formally requesting you listen to protesting fish harvesters by (1) lifting all processing caps in the province, (2) granting new processing licenses, and (3) removing restrictions on outside buyers. **This request does not pertain solely to snow crab – but for all commercial species fished by inshore licenses.** We also ask that your government undertake a broad, independent review of the province's processing licensing policy and the effect it has on the economic success of owner-operator harvesters.

Every single processing job in this province is important. And we can all agree that our entire province benefits the most when the work stays here.

We believe that changing government policy to allow for outside buyers will **not** negatively impact the work available for plant workers in Newfoundland and Labrador. 2023 and 2022 fishing seasons provided ample evidence that current processing companies in Newfoundland and Labrador **do not have the capacity** to handle existing quotas for snow crab, northern cod, capelin, and other species in a timely manner.

While thousands of Newfoundlanders and Labradorians benefit from seasonal processing work, the bulk of companies brought in Temporary Foreign Workers last season rather than focus on improving work for those who live in the province. Moreover, companies enjoy the benefit of trucking product in and out of the province, while the primary producers do not enjoy the same benefits.

The stock projections for important commercial species are on an upward trend. Species like snow crab, northern cod, capelin, redfish, and lobster are all showing exceptional promise, and we expect landings will only continue to increase. **Buyers must be made available to harvesters to meet this increasing supply.**

Minister Loveless, fish harvesters in our province have been disadvantaged long enough. In recent years, harvesters have been faced with strict weekly limits, unfounded deductions, plants that chose not to process certain species, and others who refused to purchase from certain harvesters. All of which amounts to a very toxic business relationship for both harvesters and plant workers. **More competition and market access for harvesters is desperately needed.**

As representatives elected by the people of Newfoundland and Labrador, there is an expectation that government leaders will act on the formal recommendations provided via official channels; such as those provided by the Processing Licensing Board. In this regard, it is our understanding that the government has failed to approve several recommendations that seek to improve capacity the fishing industry.

To reiterate our request, we are formally asking the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador to:

- 1) Lift all processing caps on existing processors in the province
- 2) Grant new processing licenses
- 3) Remove restrictions on outside buyers to allow prospective buyers from Atlantic Canada and Quebec
- 4) Undertake a formal, independent review of the province's processing licensing policy

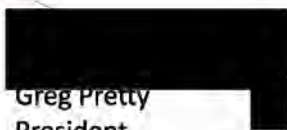
In addition to these requests, we once again ask that your government improve transparency in the processing sector, to ensure existing license holders are fully utilizing their licenses, and that this information be provided to the province in a timely manner. Moreover, processing companies must disclose information on markets, price, pack-out and yield, to ensure that Collective Bargaining in the fishery is fair for both parties, rather than one-sided in favour of the companies.

If inshore fish harvesters do not succeed, neither will plant workers, and neither will our coastal communities. The system must change if we have any hope of a future for the owner-operator fishery in our province with harvesters having the ability to land all of their allotted quotas in all commercial species.

We respectfully await your decision to these requests and ask that you respond by end of business day, Monday, March 18, 2024.

Sincerely,

40(1)


Greg Pretty
President

40(1)


Secretary-Treasurer

83 of 175

From: Chippett, Jamie
Sent: Friday, March 15, 2024 4:22 PM
To: Shea, Erin
Subject: FW: Letter to Minister Loveless
Attachments: FFAW letter to Elvis Loveless 2024[77][1].pdf

[Attachment Previously Included](#)

From: Loveless, Elvis <ElvisLoveless@gov.nl.ca>
Sent: Friday, March 15, 2024 4:08 PM
To: Chippett, Jamie <JamieChippett@gov.nl.ca>
Cc: Hanlon, Bren M. <brenhanlon@gov.nl.ca>
Subject: FW: Letter to Minister Loveless

From: Greg Pretty <GPretty@ffaw.ca>
Sent: Friday, March 15, 2024 3:52 PM
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Good Afternoon Minister Loveless,

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Kindest Regards,

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From: [Renouf, Craig](#)
Sent: [Friday, March 15, 2024 4:48 PM](#)
To: [Loveless, Elvis](#), [Chippett, Jamie](#), [Baldwin, Paul](#), [Hanlon, Bren M.](#), [Shea, Erin](#), [Adams, Blair](#)
Subject: [MORE MEDIA - March 15, 2024](#)

VOCM

Kruger, Province Ink Deal To Prop Up Paper Mill, Forestry Sector

Mar 15, 2024 | 4:12 PM

The provincial government has agreed to buy hydro power when needed from Corner Brook Pulp and Paper to help the struggling mill through more tough times.

In exchange, Montreal-based parent company Kruger will work to identify new revenue sources from wood-based bioproducts to diversify the operation and keep it afloat amid a dying global newsprint market.

In addition, the company has agreed to sell saw logs to Newfoundland's three large sawmills, in line with its operating plans, which government says is essential for the stability of the forest sector.

The six-month agreement was announced in separate news releases from the company and government on Friday afternoon, with the province insisting any power purchased from Corner Brook Pulp and Paper, generated by its Deer Lake facility, won't affect ratepayers.

It's not clear how or why NL Hydro would need to buy extra power, given recent statements that there was plenty of capacity heading into the winter months. Nor has a dollar amount been attached to the agreement.

In November, Kruger was forced to pause operations for a week, citing the difficult business environment in the newsprint sector.

That once again created waves of concern and uncertainty in the west coast city and the province, with Mayor Jim Parsons calling the situation a gut check.

This is the reason for our existence here, Parsons said. Every time we see an interruption in that stream of steam going up in the air, everyone worries.

The government, meanwhile, says it's continuing discussions with Kruger, adding they remain optimistic about the province's forest industry.

Corner Brook Pulp and Paper employs more than 300 workers, with annual sales in the range of \$130 million.

CBC

N.L. government agrees to buy power from struggling Corner Brook paper mill

Mill closed for a week in November, citing industry challenges

Alex Kennedy 7 CBC News 7 Posted: Mar 15, 2024 4:20 PM NDT | Last Updated: 24 minutes ago

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/newfoundland-labrador/nl-mill-power-agreement-1.7145246>

VOCM

FFAW Backing Harvesters Demands To Lift Limits, Open Markets

Mar 15, 2024 | 2:33 PM

The FFAW is urging the provincial government to listen to protesting harvesters and lift processing caps, grant new processing licences and remove restrictions on outside buyers.

Fisheries Minister Elvis Loveless says he has written a letter to the union seeking clarification on its position regarding the latter issue of outside buyers.

The FFAW, however, says its position is clear.

The union has stated harvesters have been disadvantaged long enough and the situation is so severe that many are facing imminent bankruptcy.

Union president Greg Pretty points the finger at what he calls the cartel-like environment that processing companies enjoy in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Harvester John Efford says in recent years they have faced strict weekly limits, what he calls unfounded deductions, plants that choose not to process certain species, and others who refuse to buy from certain harvesters.

The union's Jason Spingle, meanwhile, calls the business environment in Newfoundland and Labrador anti-harvester.

Seafoodnews.com

NL Snow Crab Price Negotiations Hit New Issue As FFAW Negotiator Reportedly Resigns

March 15, 2024

The opening of the Newfoundland and Labrador snow crab season is just weeks away from kicking off, yet harvesters and processors have yet to come to an agreement on price. In fact, according to new reports that are circulating, FFAW's negotiator, Jake Rice, has resigned.

Things have been tense between the Fish, Food and Allied Workers (FFAW) and the Association of Seafood Processors (ASP) for years. But the tension came to a head in 2023 when a failure to agree on the price selected by the Standing Fish Price Setting Panel resulted in a six week delay to the start of the season. The hope was that the issues between the two parties would be resolved this year with a formula to set the price. However, FFAW and ASP have yet to confirm that a formula has been decided on, or if they will be relying on the Standing Fish Price Setting Panel to set the price. And now, if the reports are true, Jake Rice, who served as the Price Negotiations Manager, is no longer involved in the crab bargaining.

FFAW has not yet commented on Rice's alleged decision to step down. Instead the news was shared by another harvester, Jason Sullivan, in a Facebook post. The list of FFAW's crab negotiating committee, as of February 2, [can be found here](#).

At the same time FFAW is continuing talks with ASP, the group is also calling on the provincial government to lift all processing caps in the province, grant new processing licenses, and remove restrictions on outside buyers.

Fish harvesters in our province have been disadvantaged long enough, FFAW President Greg Pretty said in a statement. The situation has gotten so severe in recent years that a very large number are now facing imminent bankruptcy due to the cartel-like environment processing companies enjoy here in Newfoundland and Labrador. When

fish harvesters cannot find a buyer for their catch we have a serious problem. This province cannot have a thriving fishery if fish harvesters are not succeeding, and the current wall of opposition they face makes success unattainable.

This call for change to processing licenses in the area extends beyond snow crab. But right now the snow crab fishery is the one that everyone has eyes on. What we do know about the 2024 season so far is that there are some stock status [concerns in 3K](#). Last month the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) Science Department provided a technical briefing on the latest stock assessment for snow crab in NL. There was no change in stock status of all assessment divisions, but the DFO expressed concerns about a decline in exploitable biomass in 3K.

[You can find a deep dive into Canadian snow crab ahead of the 2024 season here.](#)

Craig Renouf

Media Relations Manager

Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture

709-637-2923 (office)

709-640-6922 (cell)

craigrenouf@gov.nl.ca

87 of 175

From: Baldwin, Paul
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2024 10:26 AM
To: Chippett, Jamie, Loveless, Elvis
Subject: Fwd: Urgent Response Request - Letter of March 15th
Attachments: Outlook-dbcx4ptw.jpg, FFAW letter to Elvis Loveless 2024[77][1].pdf

[Attachments Previously Included](#)

Minister and DM

I received this earlier today.

Cheers
Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Courtney Langille <CLangille@ffaw.ca>
Date: March 18, 2024 at 9:46:48 AM NDT
To: "Baldwin, Paul" <PaulBaldwin@gov.nl.ca>
Subject: Urgent Response Request - Letter of March 15th

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.

Paul,

I have attached a copy of the correspondence that was issued to Minister Loveless on March 15th by Greg Pretty, via his president@ffaw.ca account.

I am ensuring that you have visibility on the attached, with emphasis on the urgency for a prompt response. As you know, there is considerable pressure surrounding the issues outlined by the harvesting sector and a significant demonstration will take place at Confederation Building this Wednesday without a positive response from Minister Loveless today or tomorrow. A swift response will mitigate these disruptions, and I am hopeful that you will work with me to ensure same.

Thank you,

Courtney Langille
Communications and Government Relations
Fish, Food, and Allied Workers Union (FFAW-Unifor)
(709) 576-7276
(709) 693-8454
www.ffaw.ca

88 of 175

From: Hanlon, Bren M.
Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2024 9:20 AM
To: Joy, Carla
Cc: Chippett, Jamie
Subject: FW: Letter to Minister Loveless
Attachments: FFAW letter to Elvis Loveless 2024[77][1].pdf Attachment Previously Included

Carla, just sending to you for [REDACTED] purposes. Over the weekend we drafted a response [REDACTED], it can be found at [REDACTED]. Any questions let me know.

29(1)(a)

Thank you.

31(1)(l)

From: Loveless, Elvis <ElvisLoveless@gov.nl.ca>
Sent: Friday, March 15, 2024 4:08 PM
To: Chippett, Jamie <JamieChippett@gov.nl.ca>
Cc: Hanlon, Bren M. <brenhanlon@gov.nl.ca>
Subject: FW: Letter to Minister Loveless

From: Greg Pretty <GPretty@ffaw.ca>
Sent: Friday, March 15, 2024 3:52 PM
To: Loveless, Elvis <ElvisLoveless@gov.nl.ca>
Subject: Letter to Minister Loveless

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.

Good Afternoon Minister Loveless,

Please see the attached letter.

Kindest Regards,

Greg Pretty
President
Fish, Food and Allied Workers (FFAW-Unifor)
368 Hamilton Avenue., PO Box 10, Stn C
St. John s, NL A1C 5H5
www.ffaw.ca



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From: [Renouf, Craig](#)
Sent: [Tuesday, March 19, 2024 9:21 AM](#)
To: [Loveless, Elvis](#), [Chippett, Jamie](#), [Baldwin, Paul](#), [Hanlon, Bren M.](#), [Adams, Blair](#), [Balsom, Stephen](#), [Deering, Keith](#), [Shea, Erin](#), [Skinner, Linda](#)
Subject: [MORNING MEDIA - March 19, 2024](#)

VOCM

Kruger CEO Sees Bright Future for Corner Brook Pulp and Paper Mill

Mar 18, 2024 | 9:01 AM

The CEO of Kruger believes the future of Corner Brook Pulp and Paper is bright and he is proud of the mill's 300-plus workers.

Roman Gallo was responding to the company's latest agreement with the provincial government in an attempt to secure the future of its Corner Brook operation.

In November, the company unexpectedly paused operations at Corner Brook Pulp and Paper for a week, prompting concern from both the city and provincial government.

On Friday, Kruger announced that a deal had been reached with government to sell excess power generated at its Deer Lake power plant to NL Hydro, while the company will also be able to sell saw-logs to local sawmills.

CEO Gallo says the agreements will allow the company time to come up with a plan to diversify operations, and that includes the possible development of biofuels.

Even though they won't get into the numbers, he calls it a win-win for everybody. He says it will allow them another way to generate revenue for the mill, and says it's a way to provide something to government and NL Hydro that's very valuable to them.

Gallo was asked for a message to Corner Brook Pulp and Paper's workers.

The first thing is that I'm proud of them, he says. They are a can-do group of people. As for the future of the facility? I have a high level of optimism, says Gallo. That mill, that asset, and their employment, and the benefit that all of that brings to the island of Newfoundland, it's going to be there for a very, very long time.

Area Residents Displeased After Province Shuts Down Bridge in Central

Mar 18, 2024 | 11:30 AM

People in central Newfoundland are upset with the provincial government for shutting down a bridge at Badger Lake which provided easy access to cottage country.

Last fall, the Rocky Brook Road Bridge Committee presented government with a proposal to cover the entire cost of replacing the bridge. Residents say the sale and development of additional lots in the area would essentially cover the cost of the bridge.

With the closure of the bridge, seven permanent residents and numerous cottage owners are now left without access to their properties.

Owners say they purchased the lots from Crown Lands in three separate cottage lot draws with the understanding that government was committed to providing direct access to the area via a 1.7 km resource road from the TCH.

Government has told them that since no wood harvesting was being done in the area, a resource road is unnecessary and that a new bridge would be the responsibility of the property owners.

CBC

The province is paying \$22 million for electricity from Kruger and it has been for 6 weeks

Deal was first approved in January, but the province has yet to speak about it

Ryan Cooke 7 CBC News 7 Posted: Mar 19, 2024 6:56 AM NDT | Last Updated: 1 hour ago

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/newfoundland-labrador/kruger-22-million-nl-hydro-timeline-1.7148140>

Kruger VP mum on dollar figures in new power agreement with N.L. government

Both sides already had a 10-year power purchase agreement, so why the new one?

Ryan Cooke 7 CBC News 7 Posted: Mar 18, 2024 3:07 PM NDT | Last Updated: March 18

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/newfoundland-labrador/roman-gallo-kruger-corner-brook-pulp-paper-nl-hydro-1.7147196>

The Telegram

Union needs to represent fish plant workers too

The Telegram (St. John's) 19 Mar 2024

So, who is doing the math here?

Last year, fish plant workers processed the crab that was late coming in because fish harvesters would not accept a price that could not be bettered due to a glut in the market, blah, blah, blah. And the FFAW supported them.

So the lowly fish plant workers took this in stride and made it work, toiled for incredibly long hours and knocked themselves out, for what? To be told that their employment benefits would be of a shorter duration, and that they would receive less benefits! Which the FFAW did nothing about, though we are expected to believe that they tried.

And here we are again. The FFAW wants the government to allow the fish harvesters to sell their catch outside of the province, if they find that is to their advantage, taking work away from the same plant workers who saved their bacon last year. Way to say thank you!

Why in the name of all that is holy are some plant workers in the same union as fish harvesters? I do not support the fish harvesters who were all too happy to fill their quotas when the prices were up. Those same fish harvesters screwed up a whole spring and summer for plant workers when that situation could have been avoided, if not for greed. After all, what did they accomplish by going out late?

I also do not support a union who looks after half of their membership and pays lip service to the rest. How can the FFAW possibly argue that they really represent fish plant workers? To date, they have done and are doing nothing for us, and are now on a path to hurt our livelihood.

Is there a union out there who would truly represent us?

Eileen Earle,
Witless Bay

Buyers interested if economics make sense

It's difficult to say under what conditions it will work and when it will work

The Telegram (St. John's) 19 Mar 2024 GARY KEAN THE TELEGRAM gary.kean@thewesternstar.com @western_star
JOE GIBBONS THE TELEGRAM FILE

Snow crab harvesters want to be able to sell their product to whoever they choose to, and their union says outside buyers should be permitted for all Newfoundland and Labrador fisheries.

The association representing seafood processors in Nova Scotia says it would welcome being able to buy raw products directly from Newfoundland and Labrador harvesters, but it would have to make economic sense for them.

In recent weeks, harvesters in Newfoundland and Labrador have been demanding more free enterprise in the industry, saying they are limited to selling to a handful of in-province processors.

After daily protests by harvesters at the Confederation Building in St. John's including making their presence known inside the House of Assembly during the sitting of the legislature the provincial government said it would look into structural issues in the fishery.

In a letter sent to Ffawunifor on Thursday, March 14, the provincial Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture said it is prepared to issue an expression of interest for outside buyers for snow crab and asked the union to clarify its position on what allowing outside buyers in would mean.

DEFINITELY INTEREST

Kris Vascotto, executive director of the Nova Scotia Seafood Alliance, said there would be an appetite to buy from Newfoundland and Labrador, provided the supply flow issues and economics of it worked.

It's difficult to say under what conditions it will work and when it will work, but there is definitely interest and will always be interest because the free flow of raw material products is what helps make the system work, Vascotto said in an interview.

There is already some back and forth between the provinces, but that is mostly done through dealers and buyers to help supply crunches when they happen.

Buying raw material to be processed directly from harvesters changes the game, Vascotto said.

There are minimum processing requirements for fish and seafood in Newfoundland, he said.

In order for an outside buyer to come in and move raw material products outside of Newfoundland, you would have to address those minimum processing requirements.

BEEN TRIED BEFORE

The provincial government, at the request of harvesters at the time, allowed outside buyers into the cod fishery in 2019, but no buyers took advantage of the opportunity.

Vascotto said he isn't sure outside buyers are the panacea some might think they are.

He said there is some imbalance between which raw products can be brought into Newfoundland and Labrador versus what can be shipped out.

I think we would all like to see that rectified, but this is not something I would say is a front-burning issue in terms of the fish and seafood processing sector in Nova Scotia, he said.

NOVA SCOTIA BUYER S PERSPECTIVE

Tangier Lobster is one business that has regularly shipped raw seafood out of Newfoundland and Labrador.

For the last 20 years or so, the company has bought live lobster from western Newfoundland, then trucked it to its facility in Tangier, N.S., for grading and subsequent distribution to its customers, including some in Asia and Europe.

Last year, economics kept Tangier from buying its lobster from western Newfoundland because it proved to be less expensive to stick solely with lobster harvested from Nova Scotia.

Stewart Lamont, Tangier s managing director, is a critic of the Urner Barry pricing formula used, because, he says, the market value of lobster could drop significantly by the time it arrives at his facility and is prepared for sale to Tangier s customers.

The idea we would have to pay more for lobster on the west coast of Newfoundland, with all the incremental costs, than we would have to pay for lobster here in (Nova Scotia), from a business perspective, is staggering, said Lamont.

As for the concept of outside buyers being allowed to come into another province to purchase products, he said it s probably good public policy to have in-province buyers.

If (domestic buyers) have to compete beyond their own buying group and have to compete with buyers from Nova Scotia, that may render a buying class that is diminished quite substantially, said Lamont.

ADVANTAGES OF LOCAL BUYERS

There are services such as providing bait, freezer capacity, buying wharves and supplies that are better offered by local buyers and may be impossible for an outside buyer to provide, Lamont said.

There are a number of services a local buyer can provide that I can t provide from Nova Scotia, he said. Fishermen and the government may be careful of what they wish for in the long term.

Raw material shipped outside the province also represents less work for local plants, he said.

(Newfoundland and Labrador) needs an integrated policy, just as we need one here in Nova Scotia, said Lamont.

That integrated policy has to consider the best shortterm, medium-term and long-term interests of all the stakeholders, which are the fisherman, the local buyers, the provincial processors or any companies adding any value and the provincial and federal governments.

You could do a doctoral thesis on how you accommodate those various interests, but it s not cut-and-dried.

UNION S RESPONSE

In response to the letter it received from Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture Minister Elvis Loveless regarding clarification of the impact of outside buyers, Ffaw-unifor reiterated its request for the province to lift all processing caps in the province, to grant new processing licences and remove restrictions on outside buyers.

This request does not pertain solely to snow crab but for all commercial species fished by inshore licences, stated the letter signed by Greg Pretty, Ffaw-unifor s president, and Jason Spingle, the union s secretary-treasurer.

We also ask that your government undertake a broad, independent review of the province s processing licensing policy and the effect it has on the economic success of owner-operator harvesters.

NO NEGATIVE IMPACT

The union also said every processing job in the province is important, and outside buyers won't jeopardize them.

We believe that changing government policy to allow for outside buyers will not negatively impact the work available for plant workers in Newfoundland and Labrador, stated the union's letter.

The union also asked for more transparency in the processing sector, to ensure existing licence-holders are fully utilizing their licences, and that this information be provided to the province in a timely manner.

The system must change if we have any hope of a future for the owner-operator fishery in our province with harvesters having the ability to land all of their allotted quotas in all commercial species, said the union.

Warmer water, less oxygen hinder Gulf shrimp

Northern shrimp stocks shrinking because of unfavourable environmental conditions

The Telegram (St. John's) 19 Mar 2024 GARY KEAN THE TELEGRAM gary.kean@thewesternstar.com @western_star
Northern shrimp are a demersal species living on or near the cold ocean floor but they are not being spared from warming seas.

The federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) held a technical briefing for media recently to describe the latest effects the changing oceans are having on northern shrimp found in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, the southern limit of the species.

The waters of the Gulf of St. Lawrence and the St. Lawrence River estuary form a well-stratified system that has three distinct layers.

Between 2009 and 2022, average water temperatures in the Gulf have risen from 5.2 C to 7.0 C, and that 1.8 C difference is affecting the deepest layer, DFO says.

In addition, those deep waters are seeing decreased concentrations of the oxygen needed for marine life to survive. In some of the deepest reaches of the Gulf, which are 300 to 400 metres deep, the oxygen levels have reached lethal thresholds.

SHRIMP DISPLACED

While the warming ocean has increased lobster habitat, this and the other factors listed have led to northern shrimp being displaced to the more shallow parts of the deepest water layer, DFO says.

It has also delayed maturation and the timing of spawning, resulting in fewer shrimp in the ecosystem.

Essentially, there has been a contraction, said Mariejulie Roux, a DFO research scientist. Northern shrimp distribution used to be quite widespread in the Gulf. Now, they are increasingly concentrated in smaller areas.

Predation and concentrated harvesting are also having an impact on northern shrimp. Roux said harvesters did not land their quota of shrimp last year.

UNSURE WHAT 2024 WILL BRING

While there has been a warming trend in recent years, DFO oceanographers have indicated that, in 2023, the temperature did not increase for the first time in several years, Roux said.

Oceanographers said there had been a slight change in water masses coming into the Gulf, she explained.

So, there was some stabilization in 2023, but it was a stable high. So, still not necessarily good news and we will see what 2024 will bring.

Roux said the outlook for northern shrimp stocks in the estuary and Gulf of St-Lawrence will depend on their sensitivity to ongoing environmental changes, predation pressure and fishing pressure.

Clearly, the environment is increasingly unfavourable for these stocks, she said.

FFAW throws support behind protesting harvester

Despite some anti-union sentiment among protesting harvesters, Ffaw-unifor is calling on provincial government to listen to its members

The Telegram (St. John's) 16 Mar 2024 GARY KEAN gary.kean@thewesternstar.com @western_star

JOE GIBBONS THE TELEGRAM

For the last two weeks, the harvesters who are upset with what they call the lack of free enterprise in the industry, along with being unhappy about how their union has been handling ongoing crab price negotiations have been making their presence known at the Confederation Building in St. John's.

The option of filling the public gallery of the House of Assembly was taken from them when the Liberal government announced on Wednesday, March 13, that the legislature will not be sitting again until the provincial budget is brought down on March 20.

The harvesters continued to gather outside the building on Thursday, March 14, and many other members not in St. John's were making social media posts about planning protests at the nearest provincial government offices in their respective communities.

UNION STEPS IN

On Thursday, March 14, their union Ffaw-unifor broke its relative silence on the issues via a press release calling on the provincial government to listen to protesting fish harvesters by lifting all processing caps in the province, grant new processing licenses, and remove restrictions on outside buyers.

The union said it is also looking for a commitment from the province to undertake an independent review of the province's processing licensing policy.

'FACING IMMINENT BANKRUPTCY'

Fish harvesters in our province have been disadvantaged long enough, Greg Pretty, Ffaw-unifor's president, said in the news release.

The situation has gotten so severe in recent years that a very large number are now facing imminent bankruptcy due to the cartel-like environment processing companies enjoy here in Newfoundland and Labrador.

When fish harvesters cannot find a buyer for their catch, we have a serious problem. This province cannot have a thriving fishery if fish harvesters are not succeeding, and the current wall of opposition they face makes success unattainable.

FREE ENTERPRISE

The protest, led by John Efford, the son of the late politician of the same name, has been calling for free enterprise so harvesters can sell their catches to whoever wants to buy them.

In the same union press release, Efford said harvesters in the province have faced strict weekly limits, unfounded deductions, plants choosing not to process certain species and others refusing to purchase from certain harvesters.

That has created a toxic business relationship for harvesters and plant workers, said Efford.

More competition and market access for harvesters is needed, he stated. We want free enterprise.

'ANTI-HARVESTER'

Jason Spingle, Ffawunifor's secretary-treasurer, called the business environment anti-harvester.

There is no accountability for processing companies, said Spingle. People are losing their enterprises, and our union will not just stand by and watch that happen.

The union further stated that, while thousands of Newfoundlanders and Labradorians benefit from seasonal processing work, the bulk of companies have brought in temporary foreign workers.

Every single processing job in this province is important, added Pretty.

Our entire province benefits the most when the work stays here. Unfortunately, the privilege bestowed on processing companies is being abused, existing licences are underutilized and we do not have the capacity needed to process what is being brought in each season. The system must change if we have any hope of a future for the owner-operator fishery in our province.

PROPOSAL FOR GOVERNMENT

In a social media post later on Thursday, Efford said protesting harvesters and the union will be putting together a proposal to submit to the provincial government.

As for now no protest is planned, but if needed, I'm confident numbers and logistics are no issue, he said.

NTV

Fish harvesters take protest to central Newfoundland

Posted: March 15, 2024 8:51 pm

<https://ntv.ca/fish-harvesters-take-protest-to-central-newfoundland/>

Province signs power deal to help ailing Corner Brook Pulp and Paper

Posted: March 15, 2024 8:51 pm

Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro has signed a deal with Corner Brook Pulp and Paper that will see the the company sell excess power generated from its hydro plant in Deer Lake back to the provincial electricity grid.

<https://ntv.ca/province-signs-power-deal-to-help-ailing-corner-brook-pulp-and-paper/>

FFAW Website

FFAW RESPONSE TO MINISTER LOVELESS

<https://ffaw.ca/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/FFAW-letter-to-Elvis-Loveless-202477.pdf>

BayFM

Kruger VP says bright future ahead for Corner Brook Pulp and Paper

Roman Gallo says the team at Corner Brook Pulp and Paper are dedicated to the future of the mill.

The Vice-President and Chief Operating Officer of Kruger believes Corner Brook Pulp and Paper has a bright future. On Friday, government announced that NL Hydro will buy energy from the company's Deer Lake Power assets. Roman Gallo says this agreement helps both the company and government. He says the team at Corner Brook Pulp and Paper are dedicated to the future of the mill. Corner Brook Pulp and Paper has 305 employees.

Craig Renouf

Media Relations Manager
Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture
709-637-2923 (office)
709-640-6922 (cell)
craigrenouf@gov.nl.ca

97 of 175

From: Chippett, Jamie
Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2024 10:20 PM
To: Shea, Erin
Subject: Re: FOR APPROVAL: NR - Minister Highlights Progress on Fisheries Issues

Looks good
Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 19, 2024, at 10:18 PM, Shea, Erin <ErinShea@gov.nl.ca> wrote:

[Fyi on a couple of minor changes from Meghan](#)

From: McCabe, Meghan <MeghanMcCabe@gov.nl.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2024 10:16 PM
To: Shea, Erin <ErinShea@gov.nl.ca>
Cc: Sulley, Erin <ErinSulley@gov.nl.ca>; Barfoot, Scott <ScottBarfoot@gov.nl.ca>; Hood, Jillian <JillianHood@gov.nl.ca>; Releases, News <news@gov.nl.ca>; Pomeroy, Sonja <SonjaPomeroy@gov.nl.ca>
Subject: Re: FOR APPROVAL: NR - Minister Highlights Progress on Fisheries Issues

Ok guys I have edits to just this section + quote and then good to go - thank you!!

Outside buyers: The Provincial Government initiated an application process for outside buyers today, starting with the soon-to-be-opened snow crab fishery.

Processing capacity: The Provincial Government **will** increase processing capacity in the snow crab industry prior to the start of the 2024 snow crab fishing season. The extent of the increase and mechanism to achieve the increase will be informed by the final Total Allowable Catch (TAC), once announced by the federal Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. **Review of the Fishery:** Minister Loveless committed to a review that will touch on all elements of the fishery and will include the FFAW in the planning of the review.

The Provincial Government continues to work hard with all those who support the sustainable management of our fishing sector. There are 17,000 seafood workers and 400 communities that rely on the fishery for their livelihood.

Quote

The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador has made significant commitments in response to requests from fish harvesters and their Union. Some of these requests have been longstanding, and our Government has moved on each of them. We will continue to engage with the FFAW, ASP and all stakeholders as we move forward with a comprehensive review of the fishery.

Honourable Elvis Loveless
Minister of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 19, 2024, at 10:00 PM, Shea, Erin <ErinShea@gov.nl.ca> wrote:

As discussed, hoping to issue ASAP.

Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture

March 19, 2024

Minister Highlights Progress on Fisheries Issues

The Honourable Elvis Loveless, Minister of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture, is highlighting progress on fisheries issues raised by the FFAW and harvesters in the past week.

Minister Loveless wrote to the FFAW on March 14, 2024, to request clarification of the position of the union regarding outside buyers. In a letter of March 15, 2024, the FFAW replied to indicate their support for allowing outside buyers on all species, requesting that processing capacity be raised by lifting the caps on processing licences and issuing new processing licences, and a comprehensive review of structural issues associated with the fishery.

The Minister responded to the FFAW today, and the response letter can be found [here](#).

In response to these requests, the Provincial Government has taken the following positions with the FFAW and harvesters:

Outside buyers: The Provincial Government initiated an application process for outside buyers today, starting with the soon-to-be-opened snow crab fishery. This process combines a call for outside buyers and the licencing process for fish buyers licences in one step.

Processing capacity: The Provincial Government **will** increase processing capacity in the snow crab industry prior to the start of the 2024 snow crab fishing season. The extent of the increase and mechanism to achieve the increase will be informed by the final Total Allowable Catch (TAC), once announced by the federal Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. An increase in processing capacity is **NOT** dependent on an increase in the TAC.

Review of the Fishery: Minister Loveless committed to a review that will touch on all elements of the fishery and will include the FFAW in the planning of the review. In meetings with stakeholders in the fishery, both the Premier and the Minister heard the concerns of stakeholders who wanted to look at elements such as: corporate concentration, processing capacity, and competition. The review will include all of these elements.

The Provincial Government continues to work hard with all those who support the sustainable management of our fishing sector. There are 17,000 seafood workers and 400 communities that rely on the fishery for their livelihood.

Quote

The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador has made significant commitments in response to requests from fish harvesters and their Union. Some of these requests have been longstanding, and our Government has moved on each of them. Once we see the announcement of the Total Allowable Catch for snow crab, we will make good on our

commitment to increase processing capacity in that industry. We will continue to engage with the FFAW as we move forward with a comprehensive review of the fishery.

Honourable Elvis Loveless

Minister of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture

-30-

Learn more

[Ministers Letter to FFAW](#)

[Expression of Interest for Outside Buyers in the Crab Industry](#)

Follow us on Twitter: @GovNL and @FFA_GovNL

Media contacts

Craig Renouf

Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture

709-637-2923, 640-6922

craigrenouf@gov.nl.ca

<NR - Provincial Government Committed to Newfoundland and Labrador Fishery Mar 19.docx>

From: Chippett, Jamie
Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2024 10:45 PM
To: Shea, Erin
Cc: Loveless, Elvis, Hanlon, Bren M., Baldwin, Paul, Renouf, Craig
Subject: Re: NLIS 11 - Minister Highlights Progress on Fisheries Issues

Thanks
Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 19, 2024, at 10:37 PM, Shea, Erin <ErinShea@gov.nl.ca> wrote:

FYI below, just issued.

From: Releases, News <news@gov.nl.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2024 10:35 PM
To: Releases, News <news@gov.nl.ca>
Subject: NLIS 11 - Minister Highlights Progress on Fisheries Issues

NLIS 11
Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture
March 19, 2024

Minister Highlights Progress on Fisheries Issues

The Honourable Elvis Loveless, Minister of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture, is highlighting progress on fisheries issues raised by the FFAW and harvesters in the past week.

Minister Loveless wrote to the FFAW on March 14, 2024, to request clarification of the position of the union regarding outside buyers. In a letter of March 15, 2024, the FFAW replied to indicate their support for allowing outside buyers on all species, requesting that processing capacity be raised by lifting the caps on processing licences and issuing new processing licences, and a comprehensive review of structural issues associated with the fishery.

The Minister responded to the FFAW today, and the response letter can be found [here](#). In response to these requests, the Provincial Government has taken the following positions with the FFAW and harvesters:

Outside buyers: The Provincial Government initiated an application process for outside buyers today, starting with the soon-to-be-opened snow crab fishery.

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The Provincial Government continues to work hard with all those who support the sustainable management of our fishing sector. There are 17,000 seafood workers and 400 communities that rely on the fishery for their livelihood.

Quote

The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador has made significant commitments in response to requests from fish harvesters and their Union. Some of these requests have been longstanding, and our Government has moved on each of them. We will continue to engage with the FFAW, ASP and all stakeholders as we move forward with a comprehensive review of the fishery.

Honourable Elvis Loveless

Minister of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture

-30-

Learn more

[Ministers Letter to FFAW](#)

[Expression of Interest for Outside Buyers in the Crab Industry](#)

Media contact

Craig Renouf

Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture

709-637-2923, 709-640-6922

craigrenouf@gov.nl.ca

2024 03 19

10:30 p.m.

From: Shea, Erin
Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2024 11:08 PM
To: Loveless, Elvis
Cc: Chippett, Jamie
Subject: Re: FOR APPROVAL: NR: Minister highlights progress on fisheries issues

Yes, its all good, Minister. Meghan gave the go ahead (on your behalf).

On Mar 19, 2024, at 11:06 PM, Loveless, Elvis <ElvisLoveless@gov.nl.ca> wrote:

Sorry just seeing this particular email. But the already sent it out correct?

Which I am ok with.

Elvis Loveless
Minister
Fishery, Forestry & Agriculture
MHA - Fortune Bay - Cape La Hune
709-729-3705 (Office)
709-885-7594 (Work cell)

On Mar 19, 2024, at 9:40 PM, Chippett, Jamie <JamieChippett@gov.nl.ca> wrote:

Good by me. Minister if you are good well grt to Meghan
Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 19, 2024, at 9:33 PM, Shea, Erin <ErinShea@gov.nl.ca> wrote:

Please see the attached and below as requested. Jamie, have a look at the text because I fiddled w the wording a little. Also, I can change the links in the Learn More Section if you like:

Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture
March 19, 2024

Minister highlights progress on fisheries issues

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Honourable Elvis Loveless
Minister of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture

-30-

Learn more

[Ministers Letter to FFAW
Expression of Interest for Outside Buyers in the Crab Industry](#)

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Media contacts

Craig Renouf
Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture

709-637-2923, 640-6922

craigrenouf@gov.nl.ca

From: Chippett, Jamie <JamieChippett@gov.nl.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2024 9:05 PM
To: Shea, Erin <ErinShea@gov.nl.ca>
Cc: Loveless, Elvis <ElvisLoveless@gov.nl.ca>
Subject: RE: NR

From: Chippett, Jamie
Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2024 9:05 PM
To: Shea, Erin <ErinShea@gov.nl.ca>
Cc: Loveless, Elvis <ElvisLoveless@gov.nl.ca>
Subject: NR

Erin, as discussed can you work some magic on this and get it back to both the Minister and I simultaneously in the interest of time

Thanks

Jamie

<NR - Provincial Government Committed to Newfoundland and Labrador Fishery
Mar 19.docx>

From: Shea, Erin
Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2024 7:44 AM
To: Chippett, Jamie
Subject: Fwd: CBC story

FYI, can you please keep an eye out for this ASAP? Im basically just going to write what Meghan has here and format and send it back.

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Barfoot, Scott" <ScottBarfoot@gov.nl.ca>
Date: March 20, 2024 at 7:34:01 AM NDT
To: "McCabe, Meghan" <MeghanMcCabe@gov.nl.ca>
Cc: "Shea, Erin" <ErinShea@gov.nl.ca>, "Renouf, Craig" <CraigRenouf@gov.nl.ca>, "Skinner, Linda" <LindaSkinner@gov.nl.ca>, "Sulley, Erin" <ErinSulley@gov.nl.ca>, "Pomeroy, Sonja" <SonjaPomeroy@gov.nl.ca>
Subject: Re: CBC story

Erin/Craig, can you please jump on this?

Thanks

On Mar 20, 2024, at 7:32 AM, McCabe, Meghan <MeghanMcCabe@gov.nl.ca> wrote:



Police presence high around Confederation Building as fish harvesters protest Budget Day | CBC News
cbc.ca

Morning, folks!

This paragraph in that story: Fisheries Minister Elvis Loveless says he's willing to meet some of the demands tabled by harvesters, saying his department will issue an expression of interest for outside buyers for the 2024 snow crab fishery.

Can someone in FFA please write CBC (you can email Terry, Mike Rossiter, Sandi Noseworthy from the morning show) and send them the link to the NR from last night + the advisory with the EOI from yesterday and ask them to update their reporting as its not accurate, the minister already issued the EOI?

Thank you!
Meghan

Sent from my iPhone

<confederation-building-protest.JPG>

107 of 175

From: Chippett, Jamie
Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2024 8:57 AM
To: Shea, Erin
Cc: Loveless, Elvis, Hanlon, Bren M., Renouf, Craig
Subject: Re: CBC story

Ok
Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 20, 2024, at 7:47 AM, Shea, Erin <ErinShea@gov.nl.ca> wrote:

FYI from PO below. Im working to get this back to them asap

From: McCabe, Meghan <MeghanMcCabe@gov.nl.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2024 7:33 AM
To: Shea, Erin <ErinShea@gov.nl.ca>; Renouf, Craig <CraigRenouf@gov.nl.ca>; Skinner, Linda <LindaSkinner@gov.nl.ca>; Barfoot, Scott <ScottBarfoot@gov.nl.ca>; Sulley, Erin <ErinSulley@gov.nl.ca>; Pomeroy, Sonja <SonjaPomeroy@gov.nl.ca>
Subject: CBC story

<image001.jpg>

Police presence high around
Confederation Building as fish harvesters
protest Budget Day | CBC News
cbc.ca

Morning, folks!

This paragraph in that story: Fisheries Minister Elvis Loveless says he's willing to meet some of the demands tabled by harvesters, saying his department will issue an expression of interest for outside buyers for the 2024 snow crab fishery.

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Thank you!
Meghan

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Renouf, Craig](#)
Sent: [Wednesday, March 20, 2024 9:53 AM](#)
To: [Loveless, Elvis](#), [Chippett, Jamie](#), [Baldwin, Paul](#), [Hanlon, Bren M.](#), [Balsom, Stephen](#), [Deering, Keith](#), [Adams, Blair](#), [Shea, Erin](#), [Skinner, Linda](#)
Subject: [MORNING MEDIA - March 20, 2024](#)

VOCM

Hundreds of Fishery Protesters Seek To Steal Budget Day Spotlight

Mar 20, 2024 | 7:10 AM

Today is Budget Day in Newfoundland and Labrador.

But it threatens to be overshadowed by hundreds of fish harvesters and plant workers already gathering outside Confederation Building.

Employees arriving for work are reporting that entrances are being blocked by the protesters, albeit with RNC officers on site.

It is estimated up to 1,000 protesters have showed up to force changes in the fishery, including invites to outside buyers, more capacity for local plants, and more processing licences to spur increased competition.

Meanwhile, Finance Minister Siobhan Coady will rise early this afternoon inside the House of Assembly to deliver the government's financial blueprint for 2024-25.

VOCM's live coverage begins with Linda Swain and Richard Duggan at 2 p.m.

The RNC issued an advisory early this morning for motorists to expect increased activity and delays in and around Confederation Building throughout the day.

Impact on Milk Supply Being Seen After Central Dairies Fire

Mar 20, 2024 | 8:52 AM

Impact on Milk Supply Being Seen After Central Dairies Fire

Milk coolers at several supermarkets in the metro area looked like this on Tuesday night. (VOCM News)

It appears as though a fire at Central Dairies in Donovan's Industrial Park earlier this month is having an impact on the availability of some types of milk.

A sign posted to a cooler at one store indicates that supply challenges have been caused by a fire at the Central Dairies facility and shelves will be restocked as soon as possible.

Other types of milk are fully stocked.

In some areas, Nova Scotia milk products are starting to show up on store shelves.

In the House of Assembly last week minister responsible Elvis Loveless indicated that his department was monitoring the situation and pledged his support for the local dairy industry.

Workers being turned away from Confederation Building as fish harvesters protest budget day

Protests continue to call for out-of-province sales for all species

CBC News 7 Posted: Mar 20, 2024 6:25 AM NDT | Last Updated: 7 minutes ago

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/newfoundland-labrador/budget-day-protests-ffaw-fish-harvesters-1.7149383>

Sale of Central Dairies to newly forged dairy co-op continues in wake of recent fire

After a week of repair work, Agropur says production resumed at its Mount Pearl facility on Tuesday

Elizabeth Whitten 7 CBC News 7 Posted: Mar 19, 2024 5:35 PM NDT | Last Updated: March 19

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/newfoundland-labrador/central-dairies-sale-1.7148659>

New deal sees Hydro's payments to Kruger increase eightfold over last year

Premier believes \$22M deal is good value for money

Ryan Cooke 7 CBC News 7 Posted: Mar 19, 2024 7:16 PM NDT | Last Updated: March 19

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/newfoundland-labrador/kruger-new-deal-cost-andrew-furey-jordan-brown-1.7148472>

The Telegram

Central Dairies resumes operations after fire

Owner Agropur says, Cleanup and repairs have been completed

The Telegram (St. John's) 20 Mar 2024 CAMERON KILFOY cameron.kilfoy@saltwire.com @cameronkilfoy

KEITH GOSSE THE TELEGRAM

Firefighters tackled a large fire at the Central Dairies processing plant in Mount Pearl's Donovans Business Park during a heavy rain and windstorm late Monday night, March 11.

On Monday, March 11, a late-night fire at the rear of the Central Dairies processing plant in Mount Pearl's Donovans Business Park affected the dairy's operations.

Agropur Dairy Co-operative, owner of Central Dairies, issued a statement on Tuesday, March 19, about the extent of damages.

The fire occurred in a storage unit and was quickly contained. It never made it into the main building where operations are located, read the statement.

But smoke and water did cause damage to some of our equipment.

MITIGATING IMPACT

Due to the damage, Agropur said, it took steps to mitigate the impact on customers last week.

We maximized our network and shipped milk processed at other Agropur facilities to Newfoundland and Labrador, read the statement.

But requiring the use of ferries for delivery posed a challenge, the co-operative stated.

We asked Saputo, which owns the other fluid milk processing plant, to help us increase the milk availability, read the statement.

Agropur said that after addressing milk availability, it had to clean, replace and repair any damaged equipment.

Because the plant handles food production, we needed to meet the highest standards of cleanliness before we could resume operations, read the statement.

Agropur said Central Dairies resumed production Tuesday in Mount Pearl, as the necessary clean-up and repairs have been completed.

Agropur added that while operations have resumed, over the next few days consumers will continue to see the Farmers branded milk on store shelves.

This is only until the plant returns to full capacity and we would like to thank our customers for their patience during this process, read the statement.

NTV

Fish harvesters protest at Confederation Building on Budget Day

Posted: March 20, 2024 7:10 am

By Web Team

Hundreds of fish harvesters are protesting at Confederation Building as the provincial government gets ready to unveil its annual budget.

Harvesters are demanding free enterprise in the fishery. The government is seeking out-of-province buyers for snow crab, but harvesters want that for all species as well as an end to processing caps.

Harvesters say they're being told that if they don't back down, police may use force to remove them. A Metrobus pulled up and dropped off about 20 police officers.

At one point, the RNC used horses to try to clear a path toward the public service entrance. One of the protesters was led away afterward crying out in pain.

Government seeks out-of-province buyers for snow crab; harvesters plan protest on Budget Day

Posted: March 19, 2024 7:38 pm | Last Updated: March 19th, 2024 10:40 pm

By Bailey Howard

<https://ntv.ca/government-seeks-out-of-province-buyers-for-snow-crab-in-2024/>

The Provincial Government invited fish buyers and fish processors to submit an Expression of Interest application for a temporary Fish Buyers Licence to export live snow crab out of the province for the 2024 snow crab fishery.

But the FFAW is not satisfied and a protest is planned on Confederation Hill on Budget Day.

A rally for free enterprise is proceeding tomorrow on Confederation Hill, the union said in a statement. Despite extensive back and forth with Minister Loveless today, the provincial government is not willing to lift the caps preventing existing processing license holders from buying all the snow crab available to them. As it currently stands, once a company reaches their allotted cap they can then receive crab from other companies to process via a business arrangement but cannot purchase directly from harvesters themselves. This is cost prohibitive for smaller companies

and is inherently anti-free enterprise. Moreover, it benefits existing workers and companies in the province to lift these caps. FFAW-Unifor will continue to support fish harvesters in their fight to have a reliable buyer for their catch. For years, harvesters have struggled with capacity issues and cartel-like behaviour from a few large companies. Allowing smaller companies more access will benefit harvesters this fishing season. As a result, harvesters will be demonstrating tomorrow, March 20, 2024 on Confederation Hill.

Fisheries Minister Elvis Loveless released a statement of his own Tuesday night.

The Minister responded to the FFAW today, and the response letter can be found [here](#).

The Provincial Government has taken the following positions with the FFAW and harvesters:

Outside buyers: The Provincial Government initiated an application process for outside buyers today, starting with the soon-to-be-opened snow crab fishery.

Processing capacity: The Provincial Government will increase processing capacity in the snow crab industry prior to the start of the 2024 snow crab fishing season. The extent of the increase and mechanism to achieve the increase will be informed by the final Total Allowable Catch (TAC), once announced by the federal Minister of Fisheries and Oceans.

Review of the Fishery: Minister Loveless committed to a review that will touch on all elements of the fishery and will include the FFAW in the planning of the review.

Badger Lake cabin owners form committee to fight bridge closure

Posted: March 19, 2024 7:37 pm

By Colleen Lewis

This winter, the provincial government closed a bridge in central Newfoundland that was essential to cabin owners at Badger Lake. Now those cabin owners have formed a committee and are prepared to fight. NTV's Colleen Lewis reports.

<https://ntv.ca/badger-lake-cabin-owners-form-committee-to-fight-bridge-closure/>

Corner Brook Pulp and Paper says power sale deal will help mill through tough times

Posted: March 19, 2024 7:37 pm

By Don Bradshaw

Officials at Corner Brook Pulp and Paper say a deal to sell surplus power back into the provincial energy grid will help steer the mill through tough times. NTV's Don Bradshaw reports.

<https://ntv.ca/corner-brook-pulp-and-paper-says-power-sale-deal-will-help-mill-through-tough-times/>

Craig Renouf

Media Relations Manager

Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture

709-637-2923 (office)

709-640-6922 (cell)

craigrenouf@gov.nl.ca

From: [Renouf, Craig](#)
Sent: [Wednesday, March 20, 2024 2:21 PM](#)
To: [Loveless, Elvis](#), [Chippett, Jamie](#), [Baldwin, Paul](#), [Hanlon, Bren M.](#), [Balsom, Stephen](#), [Deering, Keith](#), [Shea, Erin](#), [Skinner, Linda](#)
Subject: [MORE MEDIA - March 20, 2024](#)

NTV

Court grants injunction preventing protesters from blocking access to Confederation Building

Posted: March 20, 2024 12:59 pm

By Web Team

A Supreme Court judge has granted an injunction restraining protesters from blocking access to Confederation Building.

The provincial government applied for the injunction after protesting fish harvesters blocked the entrances to the Confederation Building complex on Wednesday, preventing the finance minister from delivering the provincial budget.

The case will be back in court tomorrow as the judge wants to hear from the protesters.

FFAW representative says harvester injured in current protest at Confederation Building

Posted: March 20, 2024 12:49 pm

By Becky Daley

A spokesperson for the FFAW says a fishery protester was taken to hospital after an incident during the protest at Confederation Building this morning, and has confirmed the harvester has a broken hip. A police officer was also reportedly injured. Further updates on the man's injury will be followed when available.

<https://ntv.ca/ffaw-representative-says-harvester-injured-in-current-protest-at-confederation-building/>

Agropur resumes production at Central Dairies after repairing damages from fire last week

Posted: March 20, 2024 1:05 pm

By Becky Daley

Agropur, the company that owns Central Dairies, has resumed production at its Newfoundland plant yesterday after repairing damages caused by a March 11 fire. The dairy cooperative says they wish to thank its customers and consumers for their patience as they completed the necessary clean-up and repairs. Consumers will continue to see some Farmers branded products on the store shelves in the coming days until the plant returns to full capacity.

This event had an impact on the ability to serve customers last week. In order to mitigate that impact, the company maximized their network and shipped milk processed at other Agropur facilities to Newfoundland and Labrador. Product deliveries to Newfoundland required the use of ferries, which added a logistical challenge to their efforts to fully meet customer needs. The company also ask Saputo, which owns the other fluid milk processing plant, to help them increase the milk availability.

CBC

N.L. budget postponed amid rowdy protest of fish harvesters at Confederation Building

Protests continue to call for out-of-province sales for all species

Ryan Cooke 7 CBC News 7 Posted: Mar 20, 2024 6:25 AM NDT | Last Updated: 9 minutes ago

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/newfoundland-labrador/budget-day-protests-ffaw-fish-harvesters-1.7149383>

VOCM

Impact on Milk Supply Being Seen After Central Dairies Fire

Mar 20, 2024 | 8:52 AM

<https://vocm.com/2024/03/20/impact-on-milk-supply-seen-after-central-dairies-fire/>

It appears as though a fire at Central Dairies in Donovan's Industrial Park earlier this month is having an impact on the availability of some types of milk.

A sign posted to a cooler at one store indicates that supply challenges have been caused by a fire at the Central Dairies facility and shelves will be restocked as soon as possible.

Other types of milk are fully stocked.

In some areas, Nova Scotia milk products are starting to show up on store shelves.

In the House of Assembly last week minister responsible Elvis Loveless indicated that his department was monitoring the situation and pledged his support for the local dairy industry.

Judge Grants Injunction to Stem Budget Day Protest

Mar 20, 2024 | 11:11 AM

Today is supposed to be Budget Day in Newfoundland and Labrador.

But it's been officially delayed due to the blockade of entrances and exits to Confederation Building where the budget was to be delivered.

The protest by more than a thousand fish harvesters is part of an ongoing dispute with government, primarily over the crab fishery.

Late this morning, government announced the budget would be delayed until further notice, saying the protest created a threat of violence, and that it's unsafe for employees and visitors to come and go.

In the meantime, lawyers quickly descended on Supreme Court in downtown St. John's to seek a court injunction that would limit or prohibit protesters from blocking access to Confederation Building. That junction has been granted.

Jessica McCormack, President of the Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Labour, is treating the protest as a picket line which means respecting the harvesters' rights.

She says it's about health and safety of people around Confederation Building but it's also solidarity in the labour movement. They're frustrated with things in the fishery and we won't be crossing the picket line.

Opposition Leader Tony Wakeham pins the blame for the protest on the Furey Liberals, saying government has led them astray by promising to do something, then do nothing.

Yesterday, Premier Andrew Furey said he hopes allowing outside buyers shows that government is working with harvesters and are listening to them, and that significant progress has been made.

Northern Gulf of St. Lawrence 2024 Snow Crab Openings Announced For Zone 12A, 17

March 20, 2024

Some details on the 2024 Canadian snow crab season are finally being released. This week the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) announced the opening date for certain areas in the Quebec Region.

Zone 12A, which has a total allowable catch of 40 tonnes, will open on March 24 at 5 a.m. EDT and run for 10 weeks. The decision was agreed upon in discussions with First nations, as well as the industry. The DFO noted that in accordance with the application of quota reconciliation, ITQs will be revised, if required.

In addition to 12A, zone 17 will also open on March 24 at 5 a.m. EDT. Area 17 has a quota of 1674.19 tonnes and will be open for 13 weeks. Zone 16 doesn't have an opening listed, but the 2024 allocation for the area is 4067.48 tonnes. Once opened, that fishing season will run for 14 weeks.

The above areas are in the Northern section of the Gulf of St. Lawrence. The bigger snow crab quotas in the Gulf of St. Lawrence are primarily in the Southern section. Quotas for that region have yet to be announced by the DFO, but as Seafoodnews reported last month, it's likely that the catch will be slashed by about 27%.

From a pricing and market side, Urner Barry Managing Editor Janice Schreiber reports that the market is continuing to see supplies dwindle ahead of the new season out of Canada for all areas. Supplies of 8-and-10-up crab, in particular, are reported to barely adequate and approaching nil. When that time comes, quotations in the Seafood Price-Current will be delisted and new quotations will be established once the 2024 season is underway and product reaches the U.S. market.

From a historical standpoint, the U.S. starts to see snow crab imports rise from Canada during the month of April, typically peaking in May. Last year, however, due to a lack of an agreement between the processors and the fishermen in Newfoundland, the season was delayed and the U.S. saw peak snow crab imports during the month of July.

Headlines

BROWN FINDS COST OF DEAL SUSPECT: A new deal between the PG and Corner Brook Pulp and Paper Mill has left and NDP MHA perplexed. ["Jordan Brown", MHA]

CBN - St. John's - 8am News @ 08:03:11am Duration: 00:01:12 Reporter:

Ref Id: R2W-2G7-20

REACTION TO DEAL WITH PAPER MILL: The leader of the provincial opposition says the new deal between the provincial government and the Corner Brook pulp and paper mill is interesting. ["Tony Wakeham", PC Leader]

CBN - St. John's - 6am News @ 06:02:37am Duration: 00:01:05 Reporter:

Ref Id: A7s-9K2-20

FISH HARVESTERS AND SUPPORTERS PROTESTING AT THE CONFEDERATION BUILDING: Fish harvesters and their supporters have taken to the confederation building in St. John's as part of their plan to protest against the provincial government on budget day and demand more open markets for their fish. ["Alfred Fitzpatrick", Small Boat Fisherman; "Kris Vascotto", Nova Scotia Seafood Alliance]

CBN - St. John's - East Coast Morning Show @ 07:07:19am Duration: 00:13:02 Reporter: Darrell Roberts

Ref Id: c4A-8i5-20

Craig Renouf

115 of 175

Media Relations Manager

Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture

709-637-2923 (office)

709-640-6922 (cell)

craigrenouf@gov.nl.ca

From: Renouf, Craig
Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2024 3:03 PM
To: Loveless, Elvis, Chippett, Jamie, Baldwin, Paul, Hanlon, Bren M., Shea, Erin
Subject: VOCM OPEN LINE - March 20, 2024
Attachments: OPEN LINE - Andy on Fishery Protest, Meeting with Minister - March 20, 2024.m4a, OPEN LINE - Peter Leonard on Protest - March 20, 2024.m4a, OPEN LINE - Dave Callahan on Fish Protest - March 20, 2024.m4a, OPEN LINE - Tony Wakeham on Fishery Protest (Part 1) - March 20, 2024.m4a, OPEN LINE - Tony Wakeham on Fishery Protest (Part 2) - March 20, 2024.m4a, OPEN LINE - Kevin on Lobster Prices - March 20, 2024.m4a

SUPPORT FOR PROTEST: "Dave Callahan" is ecstatic today with the protest. He says kudos to the FFAW for doing supporting the harvesters and make sure you get your message across and be peaceful. The need for outside buyers and increased processing in this province is so very important. They represent not just fishers. They represent a lot of people. VOCM - St. John's - Open Line @ 09:13:51am Duration: 00:07:14 Reporter: Brian Callahan
Ref Id: P2T-8x7-20

COMMENTS ON PROTEST: "Peter Leonard" is in support of the protest. He says that people should be able to ship out of the province to make money. He has never heard anyone in Nova Scotia to buy crab and I think everyone will do just fine if we let them do what works for them. If you ship crab out, that is better for those who are not shipping out. He is not on the hill because this is about government and fish harvesters and we have been poked and poked and finally the bear is angry. He says if the protesters need too get angry, then get angry. VOCM - St. John's - Open Line @ 09:22:00am Duration: 00:09:00 Reporter: Brian Callahan
Ref Id: A3v-8h7-20

COMMENTS FROM PROTEST: "Andy" is at the protest and he said that last year we got a fishery and the Premier and the Minister told us they would have things ready for this year and that is not the case. He says that they pretend they don't know anything that is happening in the industry. Our Premier and our Minister better get their act together and stop this BS about giving someone from NS the right to buy crab. Just take the caps off the processing here. VOCM - St. John's - Open Line @ 10:11:30am Duration: 00:03:38 Reporter: Brian Callahan
Ref Id: a2J-6n5-20

COMMENTS FROM WAKEHAM: "Tony Wakeham" PC Leader says that this did not need to happen today and this is squarely the on the Premier. He closed the House early so they would not have to address issues and concerns of harvesters. They have done nothing and we are right back to where we were last year with people on the steps of the Confederation Building and not in their boats. VOCM - St. John's - Open Line @ 11:24:00am Duration: 00:07:00 Reporter: Brian Callahan
Ref Id: w4r-9P7-20

COMMENTS FROM WAKEHAM: "Tony Wakeham" PC Leader says that they made a decision this morning that they are going to respect the protest and it is time for the Premier to reach out and get this thing resolved. As the Leader of the province he should be out there talking to harvesters. VOCM - St. John's - Open Line @ 11:34:33am Duration: 00:03:53 Reporter: Brian Callahan
Ref Id: A5I-8E5-20

ISSUE WITH BUYERS: "Kevin" wants to talk lobster. He says that there is a story on lobster, they got a price last year and the buyers pulled the plug on buying after 10 days. This is the kind of thing that needs to stop. We can't have this kind of thing happening. VOCM - St. John's - Open Line @ 11:58:00am Duration: 00:02:00 Reporter: Brian Callahan
Ref Id: J4M-3h4-20

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From: [Renouf, Craig](#)
Sent: [Thursday, March 21, 2024 7:55 AM](#)
To: [Loveless, Elvis, Chippett, Jamie, Baldwin, Paul, Hanlon, Bren M., Adams, Blair, Balsom, Stephen, Deering, Keith, Shea, Erin, Skinner, Linda](#)
Subject: [MORNING MEDIA - March 21, 2024](#)

CBC

Police don riot gear as Furey's Liberals make 2nd attempt at budget amid protests

Budget was pushed back as hundreds of fish harvesters demanded regulatory change

Ryan Cooke 7 CBC News 7 Posted: Mar 21, 2024 6:59 AM NDT | Last Updated: 14 minutes ago

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/newfoundland-labrador/budget-day-protest-round-two-1.7150621>

Liberals had only token conversations, not meaningful talks, with fish harvesters, opposition leaders say

PC Leader Tony Wakeham and NDP Leader Jim Dinn say the blame for the frustrations of hundreds of fish harvesters is squarely on the Liberal government. Dinn says there should have been real talk about how to get to the heart of their issues.

<https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/1.7150110>

Armed with injunction against harvesters, Furey hopes to push delayed budget forward

Protests continue to call for out-of-province sales for all species

Ryan Cooke, Ariana Kelland 7 CBC News 7 Posted: Mar 20, 2024 6:25 AM NDT | Last Updated: 6 hours ago

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/newfoundland-labrador/budget-day-protests-ffaw-fish-harvesters-1.7149383>

Fish harvesters forced government to delay its new budget. Here's how we got there

Public servants blocked from entering Confederation Building and clashes with police forced government to wait

Mike Moore 7 CBC News 7 Posted: Mar 20, 2024 2:34 PM NDT | Last Updated: 5 hours ago

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/newfoundland-labrador/nl-fishery-protest-forces-budget-delay-1.7149423>

VOCM

Take 2: Budget Back on Agenda; Protesters Return to Confederation Building

Mar 21, 2024 | 6:05 AM

<https://vocm.com/2024/03/21/budget-protest-fishery/>

Harvester John Efford urges a peaceful protest while flanked by RNC officers in riot gear on the steps of Confederation Building this morning.

Angry fish harvesters have returned to Confederation Building this morning to protest the lack of progress with long-standing issues in their industry.

That s despite a court injunction, served on protesters this morning, that prohibits the type of aggression and disruption that played out on Wednesday.

Union leaders this morning repeatedly urged self control and a peaceful protest, insisting they were incited into aggressive behaviour yesterday by police and government officials.

The RNC, meanwhile, are also back on the scene this morning, with some in riot gear.

They also issued another traffic advisory for the area of Confederation Building ahead of today's rescheduled budget speech.

Hundreds converged on the seat of government yesterday, triggering a police response that resulted in two people—a protester and a police officer—being treated for injuries.

The ruckus forced the government to postpone the planned delivery of the budget speech due to safety concerns.

By noon, lawyers were before a Supreme Court judge seeking an injunction prohibiting protesters from blocking the doors to Confederation Building, and from causing a nuisance by intimidating, threatening or assaulting public employees.

The temporary injunction was granted, with plans to proceed with the budget speech today, but whether protesters will co-operate remains to be seen. Some staff were seen arriving at Confederation Building with sleeping bags late Wednesday, to avoid facing protesters this morning.

Premier Andrew Furey told reporters yesterday that the violent actions and intimidation tactics are wrong under any circumstances, citing a confrontation involving his own communications director.

Anyone who knows her knows that she can speak for herself, but the video I saw of someone pushing a staff member of mine is unacceptable in any environment—period—and won't be tolerated, he said.

Harvesters are demanding more processing licences to create more capacity in the industry, as well as opening up local markets to so-called free enterprise and access to buyers from outside the province.

Furey insists government is open to changes on each front, urging the FFAW to please come to the table and work with us.

It's not like we haven't been responding, he said. We took action to try to come up with a creative formula that would limit that risk for harvesters. So, while it is a big task there's nothing that is insurmountable and there is nothing that we don't have the courage to take on, but we want to do it with the FFAW to ensure that we're meeting the needs of harvesters.

Meanwhile, the Association of Seafood Producers (ASP), which represents processors in the province, has so far been quiet on this week's events.

Executive director Jeff Loder will break that silence this morning when he meets with reporters at 10 a.m.

Changing Ecosystem Impacting Northern Shrimp Stock

Mar 20, 2024 | 5:38 PM

The assessment of the northern shrimp stock is in, and there are some changes.

Fishing Area 4 off Labrador remains healthy but Area 5 off southern Labrador moves out of the healthy zone and into the cautious category. Area 6 on the northeast Newfoundland Shelf remains at the critical stage.

Various factors suggest that the ecosystem is changing, which is likely having an impact on the stock.

The ocean is currently in a warm phase, and it has been changing for the past six years. It's a situation which scientists suggest has likely contributed to improved conditions that have been observed at the lower levels of the food chain.

The Newfoundland/Labrador bioregion continues to experience overall low productivity conditions, with total biomass of about 54,000 tonnes well below pre-collapse levels of the late 1980s.

The department will hold advisory meetings in the coming weeks.

NTV

Massive police presence at Confederation Building as fisheries protesters return

Posted: March 21, 2024 6:47 am

By Web Team

There is a massive police presence at Confederation Building this morning as fisheries protesters have returned for a second day. There are officers on the scene in tactical gear and armed officers behind the line of officers in tactical gear.

The government is still trying to deliver its annual budget, which had to be postponed yesterday when protesters blocked the entrances to the building.

On Wednesday, a Supreme Court judge granted an injunction preventing protesters from blocking access to the building. The provincial government applied for the injunction after protesting fish harvesters blocked the entrances to the complex, preventing the finance minister from delivering the provincial budget.

Police are warning residents of traffic delays in the area.

Chaos on Confederation Hill

Posted: March 20, 2024 8:00 pm

By Bailey Howard

Wednesday was supposed to be budget day, but that was called off after protesting fish harvesters blocked access to the building. One protester and a police officer were injured after clashes between harvesters and the RNC. A court injunction is now in place, but the harvesters show no sign of backing down. NTV's Bailey Howard has the story.

<https://ntv.ca/chaos-on-confederation-hill/>

Protesting fish harvesters seeking free enterprise

Posted: March 20, 2024 7:59 pm

By Beth Penney

So, what is it that protesting fish harvesters want? NTV's Beth Penney has the details.

<https://ntv.ca/protesting-fish-harvesters-seeking-free-enterprise/>

Corner Brook MHA defends power deal with Kruger

Posted: March 20, 2024 7:57 pm

By Don Bradshaw

Corner Brook MHA Gerry Byrne is defending his government's decision to buy power from Corner Brook Pulp and Paper. He describes the deal as mutually beneficial to the company, and residents of the province. NTV's Don Bradshaw has that story.

<https://ntv.ca/corner-brook-mha-defends-power-deal-with-kruger/>

FFAW representative says harvester injured in current protest at Confederation Building

Posted: March 20, 2024 12:49 pm

By Becky Daley

A spokesperson for the FFAW says a fishery protester was taken to hospital after an incident during the protest at Confederation Building this morning, and has confirmed the harvester has a broken hip. A police officer was also reportedly injured. Further updates on the man's injury will be followed when available.

FFAW Website

DFO SCIENCE IDENTIFIES LITTLE CHANGE WITH NORTHERN SHRIMP BIOMASS

March 20, 2024

Today's stock assessment update from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Science Department notified industry that the biomass for northern shrimp in area 6 has not changed between 2021 and 2023. The stock remains in the critical zone, however that reference point is based on a period when there were few predators in the area.

For years the FFAW has argued that a Limit Reference Point for northern shrimp in SFA 6 should include consideration of shrimp biomass levels from the 1980s. FFAW continues to advocate for the inclusion of information from before the collapse of cod and before the explosion in shrimp biomass in the estimation of reference points for SFA6 shrimp.

While it is difficult to estimate the relative biomass levels in the 1980s, it is clear that there were considerably fewer shrimp in the system prior to the reference period for this stock. Data from catch rates, limited surveys, and predator stomach contents all clearly show that shrimp biomass levels increased from low levels in the 1980s. The upcoming framework assessment for northern shrimp should address and ideally resolve this issue.

GOVERNMENT OF NL FILES INJUNCTION AGAINST DEMONSTRATING HARVESTERS

March 20, 2024

The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador has filed a legal interim injunction against fish harvesters protesting outside the Confederation Building in St. John's. The interim injunction is legally and immediately valid, and therefore FFAW-Unifor President Greg Pretty is advising members to respect the injunction and not prevent anyone coming or going from the Confederation Building, or they may risk being arrested and criminally charged.

[Click here to read the injunction.](#)

The Telegram

Fish harvesters' protest delays presentation of 2024 budget in N.L. House of Assembly

Fishermen fighting for 'right to survive'

ST. JOHN'S, N.L. Business didn't function as usual for the staff of Newfoundland and Labrador's provincial government on Wednesday.

For weeks, Fish, Food, and Allied Workers (FFAW) members have protested on the front steps of the Confederation Building in St. John's.

They are advocating for free enterprise. Fish harvesters say they have limited choice when selling their products.

Amid fisheries protest, Furey insists N.L. budget will be delivered

'We're looking for a better life for our kids': Protesters outside Confederation Building say they don't want fishery to be controlled by government anymore

'We're looking for a better life for our kids': Protesters outside Confederation Building say they don't want fishery to be controlled by government anymore

"We're supposed to be in a free market, but we've got no say in who we sell our product to, we got one company. That's not a free market," said Long Island fisherman Bruce Short.

Mass blockades

Early Wednesday morning, FFAW members started showing up by the hundreds, blocking every entrance of the Confederation Building.

Staff and media were unable to get inside. RNC officers lined the building's entrances.

The police monitored crowds and lined the building's perimeters. In one area, a police car blocked the entrance to the public gallery.

The RNC's mounted unit was also on the scene, bringing on some moments of tension as police tried to break up crowds.

One protester started hitting the back of a horse as RNC officers approached.

Police officers attempted to de-escalate the crowds when public servants, including the premier's director of communications, Meghan McCabe, tried to make their way to work.

"We're looking for a better life for our kids because right now there is no future in this fishery," said fish harvester Jim Chidley.

Chidley said fish harvesters, unlike government employees in the Confederation Building, don't have the privilege to work from home, because their work is out on the water.

"We're here to stand up for our rights. We don't want to be controlled by this process or by the government anymore, basically," he said.

'Kicked in the head'

Chidley is one of many fish harvesters trying to protect their livelihoods.

David Pickett from Centreville, Bonavista Bay, left at 2 a.m. to travel to St. John's for the protest.

"We want free enterprise, but we also want our money. We got kicked in the head last year by the plants," Pickett said.

"We went from \$7.50 down to \$2.20 two-thirds of our income. We had a job to stay at it last year, but it's a whole new ball game this year. It won't be (worth going out on the water this year) and if you are only getting \$2 a pound, you can't afford to pay your crew members very much.

"All the plants got together and give you a price, no competition. That's why we want to open it up.

"We want to be able to ship out (our product) and they said the plant is going to hold back 20 per cent. The fishermen will never go along with that. If they give us \$2.50 per pound this year and 20 per cent is \$.50, so we are only going to get \$2 per pound. So they'll pay (what they held back) in December month if everything goes right with them.

"To me, we went back 50 years last year. My father worked on schooners going to Labrador. They'd come up with a schooner load of fish, come up and dry it, and come into St. John's and they'd hold back money at the end of the year, and had to go back to the same company again next year. It's gone back to that, and it's ridiculous as far as I'm concerned."

'It can be a beautiful life'

Bruce Short has been fishing since he was nine. Last month, he had a heart attack, but he's chosen to protest alongside other members of the FFAW. The fishery is his life, he said.

"I shouldn't be in here having to fight for my very right to survive in an industry I've grown up in," Short said.

"Everyone here has got stories and they should all tell their stories about what kind of life they have had on the water. It can be a beautiful life, but we're in a place where a lot of people would rather cry than go out on the water because of the way they are being treated."

Short said he plans to stick around until the government grants free enterprise to the fishery.

"We're not going home, so get used to us. We're going to stay until this premier and this minister of fisheries do what is necessary to get us back on the water with a free market to sell our products," he said.

'Buddy came at me'

Doug Trainor is a fish harvester from Fermuse, but he fishes out of Petty Harbour. He sees the government as more of a problem than the fish processors.

On Wednesday morning, an RNC horse stepped on his foot, he said.

"Buddy came at me like a savage, the cop on the horse, telling everybody to get out of the way," Trainor said.

"My foot is sore. I hope to God when I get home this evening my foot is swollen so then I can do something about it," he said.

Trainor said his altercation with the horse won't stop him from returning to the protest on Thursday.

"We'll be here again tomorrow morning at 6 o'clock if we have to be. We will stay all night. We're going to do whatever we have to. I don't care. I'm not stopping now," he said.

"They knocked me down in the mud today. Tomorrow I'll be back in the mud if I have to be."

A funny feeling

Fish harvester John Efford has helped organize a lot of the FFAW protests. He said Wednesday's turnout was the highest they've seen.

"We got numbers, and I've been saying all along, numbers is what means something. Not only does it mean business, it means something to us," said Efford.

Late Wednesday morning, the province announced Budget 2024's delay.

Efford told the protesters he expects to see more delays.

"Something happened today that never happened before in the history of Newfoundland and Labrador. The budget was cancelled," he said.

"I have a funny feeling that it may be cancelled tomorrow, the next business day, and the next business day until we get what? Free enterprise. Pretty clear message, isn't it?"

'We re looking for a better life for our kids': Protesters outside Confederation Building say they don't want fishery to be controlled by government anymore

Protesters have prevented staff and media from entering the building

ST. JOHN'S, N.L. As fishery workers surrounded Confederation Building on Wednesday, March 20, Jim Chidley said their message was clear.

"We're here to stand up for our rights. We don't want to be controlled by this process or by the government anymore basically," he said.

"We're looking for free enterprise. We want to be able to come in with our product, be able to have a choice where we sell to which we don't anymore, so this is what we're doing.

We're looking for a better life for our kids because right now there is no future in this fishery.

The workers have prevented staff and media from entering the building. Numerous people were trying to enter as the government was planning to announce its budget this afternoon.

"I don't know if it's so much a thing about budget day, I think we just gathered everyone together because we're not getting answers from government," Chidley said.

"They come out and make it sound like they are doing something, but overall they are not. This just happened to be budget day and I guess it's a good day."

We ask them to respect us for what we are doing and I know they are here and they're a little bit niched because they're not getting into work," Chidley said.

"We understand that, we certainly do, but we have people come and say 'well, I can work from home.' But we can't. We can't work from home. We have to try and make sure that going forward, we have a future in this fishery.

Fish harvester John Efford said they weren't blocking entrances.

"You're welcome to go around if you want, we just want to show our presence," he said.

We've been here pretty much every day for the last three weeks. It's the same message. We're trying to gain free enterprise and we've got to get it.

Efford pointed out the number of people who attended the protest shows that everyone has the same message for government.

Efford said that as of just before 10 a.m., they had not received any communication from government.

He added that he understood why the RNC were on site.

"They've got to make sure everyone is safe," he added.

David Pickett from Centreville, Bonavista Bay, left 2 a.m. to travel to St. John's for the protest.

We want free enterprise, but we also want our money. We got kicked in the head last year by the plants. We went from \$7.50 down to \$2.20—two thirds of our income. We had a job to stay at it last year, but it's a whole new ballgame this year. It won't be (worth going out on the water this year) and if you are only getting \$2 a pound, you can't afford to pay your crew members very much.

All the plants got together and give you a price, no competition. That's why we want it to open it up.

We want to be able to ship out (our product) and they said the plant is going to hold back 20 per cent, the fishermen will never go along with that. If they give us \$2.50 per pound this year and 20 per cent is \$.50, so we are only going to get \$2 per pound. So they'll pay (what they held back) in December month if everything goes right with them.

To me we went back 50 years last year. My father worked on schooners going to Labrador. They'd come up with a schooner load of fish, come up and dry it, and come into St. John's and they'd hold back money at the end of the year, had to go back to the same company again next year. It's gone back to that, and it's ridiculous as far as I'm concerned.

Southwestern Newfoundland lobster harvesters join their union colleagues in protest from afar

About 30 harvesters showed up at MHA's office in Port aux Basques to support call for more free enterprise in fishery

ST. JOHN'S, N.L. While fish harvesters followed through on their strategy to fill the hill, the Confederation Building in St. John's wasn't the only place they demonstrated on Wednesday, March 20.

Hundreds of harvesters demanding more free enterprise in the industry made their presence known at the legislature, even forcing a delay in the provincial budget that was supposed to be brought down.

There were others unable to get to the capital city who decided to congregate at their local MHA's office to let their respective elected members know support for the cause extended far beyond the group at the Confederation Building.

Around 30 harvesters gathered outside the office of Industry, Energy and Technology Minister Andrew Parsons, the Liberal MHA for Burgeo-La Poile, in Port aux Basques. Among them was Troy Hardy, a 34-year-old harvester from Burnt Islands.

After owning an enterprise for a few years, Hardy bought a lobster licence last season.

He said it was important for him and his fellow harvesters from the southwest coast area — most of whom are lobster fishermen — to show their support for their colleagues and their union, FFAW-Unifor, by heading to their MHA's constituency office.

As things stand now, said Hardy, the Association of Seafood Producers (ASP), has full control over harvesters of all species in Newfoundland and Labrador. Harvesters want more free enterprise in the system so they are not dependent on selling to the ASP but can go elsewhere if they can find another buyer outside the association.

Last year, crab harvesters unhappy with the price the ASP was offering for their product tied up their boats for six weeks after the scheduled start of the season. They eventually went fishing for the same price originally offered.

The union and the ASP are still trying to negotiate a new pricing formula that would see both sides share the risks associated with the marketplace, but no deal has been reached, with the fishery supposed to start in about three weeks.

The federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) has yet to set the opening date for snow crab, which was April 10 in 2023, and has yet to announce quotas for the 2024 season.

The FFAW are going into these negotiations with their hands tied, said Hardy. If the processors don't want to buy our products, then we have no other option. We have guys here who are loyal and faithful to Codroy Seafoods, but the ASP as a whole are negotiating in bad faith. If you had outside buyers, it would at least keep the process fair.

Opening floodgates

Selling lobsters to outside buyers is fairly simple and has been done in the past with lobster, especially western Newfoundland lobster. Crab, explained Hardy, is not so easy because plants would have to be equipped to deal with that species.

The provincial government has issued a call for expressions of interest in outside buyers exporting live snow crab from Newfoundland and Labrador. FFAW-Unifor wants the same for all species, although some critics have said the interest may not be there for all species and product exported means less work for local fish plant workers.

An expression of interest for lobster would be a totally different story (than one for crab), said Hardy. You're opening up the floodgates then. There's lots of interest in lobster outside the province, especially for us harvesters on the southwest coast. We're here at the gateway to Newfoundland. It would be such a slick process to send lobsters across. Nothing to it.

Hardy supports allowing outside buyers for any species so the market can determine the best price for harvesters.

The bottom line is, at least it gives you another option, he said.

Sticking together

Hardy says outside buyers would not harm local plant workers.

Besides holding the ASP accountable, I don't see it being a big change in their operations, he said. It would probably just give us a fair price and, if fishermen here got that, they would be happy with it.

If you're being pushed somewhere where you have no control, it doesn't work that way and we're not going to stand for that. The sticking point now is processing caps, but, as harvesters and union members, we have to stick together.

The union has called on the government to lift all processing caps and to grant new processing licences, in addition to permitting outside buyers.

In its response to the union, the provincial government said it will increase processing capacity for snow crab prior to the start of the 2024 season. The extent of this measure will depend, according to the province, on the total allowable catch, which has yet to be announced by DFO.

Hardy said there needs to be broad changes made to how the fishing industry is managed.

I think if you have outside buyers for all species, when we move into negotiations there's going to be a different atmosphere, said Hardy. The ASP is going to understand that they have to play fair or we can go elsewhere.

EDITORIAL: Why big fisheries protests fail in Newfoundland and Labrador

SaltWire Staff | Posted: 10 hours ago | Updated: 8 hours ago | 4 Min Read

A video immediately began circulating on news websites and social media of a fishery protester in a blue snowmobile suit during Wednesday's protest slapping and hitting an RNC horse.

That man and those around him who stood by and laughed, and those giving the finger to the RNC are why these protests fail.

So, too, are those who, in a threatening manner, get up in the face of public servants and communications persons who are just trying to get into the building to go to work.

Just imagine what could have happened if the horse had panicked and charged into the crowd. Think about the danger of injury or worse to the officer and people in the crowd.

The man in the blue snowsuit should be charged, and possibly some of the others. They should also be condemned by their union and fellow fishery workers.

While fisheries workers say the processing cartel and the current lack of competition, low prices and processing caps have set fishermen back 50 years, buddy in the blue snowmobile suit just set you back another 50 years.

Who wants to support that kind of behaviour? Does he even know why he's there?

In every fishery protest over the years, there's always been a small faction who show up just because it's an opportunity to put'er up.

It's disgraceful.

How do you expect to advance your cause with antics like that?

We support the right to protest, but it needs to be done peacefully. Threats, or striking an animal, have no place in it. Want to shut down a public building? Stand or sit in front of it without physical assaults or threats.

Fish harvesters always had to stand up for their rights, to fight for improvements and a fair deal right from the time when the old fish merchants controlled the fishery keeping fishermen and their families in the poor house and indebted to them.

It's been a constant, hard struggle, there's no doubt about that. There's been good years and bad years in the fishery, both from the abundance of fish perspective and the market's perspective. Prices go up and down year after year like the tide.

But fighting for your rights doesn't have to include violence or threats of violence. That just defeats the cause.

Good, honest hard-working fishermen were always and still are the backbone of rural Newfoundland and Labrador. The fishery is the heart of our rural communities.

It's a profession in which respect is earned just by its nature - these brave men and women work in an often harsh and dangerous environment.

Most would give you the shirt off their backs. Most would invite you into their homes for a cup of tea and a good story.

Why, then, does that wonderful image have to be tarnished by the foolishness we saw on Wednesday morning by the man in blue and the other rowdies like him?

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From: Chippett, Jamie
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2024 12:04 PM
To: Shea, Erin
Subject: RE: NR - Progress on fisheries Mar 21.docx

OK

From: Shea, Erin <ErinShea@gov.nl.ca>
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2024 12:03 PM
To: Chippett, Jamie <JamieChippett@gov.nl.ca>
Subject: NR - Progress on fisheries Mar 21.docx

Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture
March 21, 2024

Provincial Government Recaps Commitments on Fisheries Issues

The Provincial Government is highlighting its commitments and progress on fisheries issues that have been raised over the past week by the Fish, Food and Allied Workers Union (FFAW) and its harvesters.

The Honourable Elvis Loveless, Minister of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture, wrote to Greg Pretty, President of the FFAW, on March 14, 2024, to request clarification of the position of the union regarding outside buyers. In a letter of March 15, 2024, the FFAW replied to indicate its support for allowing outside buyers on all species, requesting that processing capacity be raised by lifting the caps on processing licences and issuing new processing licences, and a comprehensive review of structural issues associated with the fishery.

The Minister responded to the FFAW on Tuesday, March 19, 2024, and the response letter can be found [here](#).

In response to these requests, the Provincial Government has taken the following positions with the FFAW and harvesters:

- **Outside buyers:** The Provincial Government initiated an application process for outside buyers on March 19, 2024, starting with the soon-to-be-opened snow crab fishery.
- **Processing capacity:** The Provincial Government **will** increase processing capacity in the snow crab industry prior to the start of the 2024 snow crab fishing season. The extent of the increase and mechanism to achieve the increase will be informed by the final Total Allowable Catch (TAC), once announced by the federal Minister of Fisheries and Oceans.
- **Review of the Fishery:** Government committed to a review that will touch on all elements of the fishery and will include the FFAW in the planning of the review.

The Provincial Government continues to work hard with all those who support the sustainable management of our fishing sector. There are 17,000 seafood workers and 400 communities that rely on the fishery for their livelihood.

Quote

Our Government has made significant commitments in response to requests from fish harvesters and their union. Some of these requests have been longstanding, and our Government has moved on each one of them. We will continue to engage with the FFAW, the Atlantic Seafood Producers, and all stakeholders as we move forward with a comprehensive review of the fishery.

Honourable Elvis Loveless

Minister of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture

-30-

Learn more

[Minister's Letter to FFAW \(March 19\)](#)

[Expression of Interest for Outside Buyers in the Crab Industry](#)

Media contact

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From: [Renouf, Craig](#)
Sent: [Thursday, March 21, 2024 4:37 PM](#)
To: [Loveless, Elvis, Chippett, Jamie, Baldwin, Paul, Hanlon, Bren M., Shea, Erin](#)
Subject: [MORE MEDIA - March 21, 2024](#)
Attachments: [Newfoundland crab harvesters warned against acting like 'angry mob' as protest rolls into day two.pdf](#)

Undercurrent News

Newfoundland Crab Harvesters Warned Against Acting like 'angry mob' as Protest Rolls into Day Two (See attached)

VOCM

Large Crowd of Fish Harvesters Staying Put at Confederation Building

<https://vocm.com/2024/03/21/large-crowd-of-harvesters-staying-put-at-confederation-building/>

CBC

Police in riot gear hold off fisheries protesters as N.L. Liberals finally land budget

Hundreds of protesters and police in riot gear stationed outside province's legislature

Ryan Cooke · CBC News · Posted: Mar 21, 2024 6:59 AM NDT | Last Updated: 1 hour ago

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/newfoundland-labrador/budget-day-protest-round-two-1.7150621>

125 lobster fishermen gather in Corner Brook in solidarity with St. John's protesters

1 hour agoNewsDuration1:25

Similar to their counterparts who rallied in St. John's, lobster fishermen who stood peacefully outside the Sir Richard Squires Building in Corner Brook said they want to sell what they catch outside the province. As the CBC's Colleen Connors reports, there were no speeches and no one was blocked from entering or leaving the building.

<https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/1.7151112>

PCs, NDP to skip budget reading in solidarity with protesting fish harvesters

4 hours agoNewsDuration1:27

PC Leader Tony Wakeham tells reporters his caucus will not be in the House of Assembly during the tabling of the budget by Finance Minister Siobhan Coody but is instead standing with hundreds of fish harvesters. NDP Leader Jim Dinn, whose party is doing the same, says Premier Andrew Furey has let the situation "get out of control."

<https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/1.7150838>

Seafoodnews.com

'Possibly the End;' Quebec Shrimp Fishery Facing Climate Change, Tough Economy

For years, the northern shrimp fished in the Quebec waters of the Gulf of St. Lawrence have been known as "crevettes de Matane," named after the town where much of the province's harvest has been processed since the 1960s.

But after the owners of the town's processing plant announced its closure this week, there's fear that it's not only the Matane shrimp that are on their way out, but the Quebec shrimp fishery as a whole.

Patrice Element, director of the shrimp industry group Office des pêcheurs de crevette du Québec, said it's hard to be surprised by the closure. Over the years, temperatures in the gulf have been rising, causing shrimp stocks to plummet and making conditions more favorable for fish species that eat them, he said.

"It's more than a worry. It's a quasi-certainty that if it continues to decline like last year, it's the end, especially with economic conditions that don't help us either," Element said in a phone interview.

Royal Greenland, owners of the seafood processing plant in Matane, announced Monday that it was closing due to a number of factors including declining shrimp stocks, as well as a lack of employees and "increasing financial challenges" including high shore prices and low market prices.

In January, the federal Department of Fisheries announced that the quota for northern shrimp stocks in the estuary and northern Gulf of St. Lawrence -- which includes parts of Quebec, New Brunswick and Newfoundland -- would be decreased to 3,060 tonnes, compared to about 14,500 tonnes in 2023.

Element said the quotas were about 35,000 tonnes as recently as 2015. What remains, he said, is enough for a handful of boats and crews, rather than the 80 or 90 that currently exist.

Marie-Julie Roux, a research scientist for the Fisheries Department, said temperatures near the sea floor, where the northern shrimp live, increased about 1.8 degrees over the 13-year period ending in 2022. While the number may seem small, it's "huge" for a cold-blooded species like shrimp, which can't regulate their own body temperature and were already at the southern edge of their range in the St. Lawrence, she said.

Twenty years ago, shrimp were found throughout the gulf, "but now they're becoming a lot more concentrated in small patches where conditions are still favorable for them," she said. "But that habitat is becoming increasingly rare."

Given these changes, she said it's likely the northern shrimp will become "commercially extinct" in the St. Lawrence, meaning it will continue to exist but in numbers too small to support a fishery.

Element said that there is some disappointment with the low quota, but fishers don't argue with the data on warming. They've seen it with their own eyes and recorded it on thermometers.

"(The temperature) is increasing, it's increasing rapidly and unfortunately it risks continuing to rise," he said.

The news of the plant closure was a blow to the 14,000-person town on Quebec's Gaspé peninsula that once held an annual shrimp festival to celebrate its connection to the industry.

Matane Mayor Eddy Métivier said the news is "a catastrophe" for the fishers and the plant's employees, "but it's also a symbol of identity for Matane."

Métivier said that while the industry's troubles are nothing new, the closure was a shock because Royal Greenland had recently upgraded its facilities to expand into crab and lobster transformation and built new housing for the roughly 150 temporary workers -- mostly Mexican -- who work there every year.

He said the federal government's decision to reimpose visas on Mexican nationals -- at a time when this year's cohort was "almost in the airplane" -- was the final straw for Matane's industry, and he blamed a lack of communication between the immigration and fisheries departments for not leaving enough time to adjust.

Jean-Paul Gagné, the general director of an association representing Quebec's fishing industry, said there has been little good news in recent years for fishers, who have been forced to adapt again and again to changes in climate and water quality. But not all species do poorly in warming water.

One glimmer of hope is the rising numbers of lobster moving into the gulf, as well as the reopening of the commercial redfish fishery this year for the first time since 1995. Redfish, which can live in warmer temperatures, are also a shrimp predator, he noted.

Gagné said some harvesters and plants may be able to switch to different species although that takes investment in equipment, skills, marketing and probably government aid. Even then, there's no guarantee it will pay off, he said, noting the newly abundant lobster could eventually move on if the temperature continues to rise.

"There are big decisions to take, and it's hard for everyone," he said.

Métivier said he hopes that a buyer will come forward for the closed Royal Greenland plant. Perhaps one day, once the visa issue is sorted, we'll even talk about "Matane lobster" or "Matane redfish" instead of Matane shrimp, he said.

It would take a company ready to invest. "But there's lots of new equipment in the factory," he said.

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Newfoundland crab harvesters warned against acting like 'angry mob' as protest rolls into day two

'We are going to have a peaceful protest. We are not going to give anybody any reason to call us an angry mob' -- John Efford, leader of the crab harvester protest in Newfoundland and Labrador

By [Barb Dean-Simmons](#) | March 21, 2024 13:19 GMT

Snow crab harvesters in the Canadian province of Newfoundland and Labrador (NL) continued their protests for a second day at the province's House of Assembly Thursday morning (March 21), but the lead organizer, John Efford, has advised them to remain peaceful.

"We are going to have a peaceful protest. We are not going to give anybody any reason to call us an angry mob. We're not going to give anybody a reason to call us ignorant," Efford said, speaking through a megaphone to address the protestors who began arriving again at 6 a.m. NL daylight time.

"We're going to show self-control. That's more important than losing your mind, losing your patience," Efford said.

"Do not, do not get caught up in cat-calling. Do not get caught up in incitement. If anybody says anything to you today, say, 'Have a nice



134 of 175

day."



📷 Photos from Newfoundland and Labrador radio station VOCM shared on Twitter/X show the scene at the Confederation Building, in St. John's, on Thursday morning, March 21.

A court injunction has been issued to prevent anyone from blocking access to the building, or interfering with public servants trying to enter the building. To ensure the protestors abide by the rules of the injunction, the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary (RNC) police are at the Confederation Building in full riot gear, reported [CBC News](#).

As reported earlier by [Undercurrent News](#) about 1,000 fish harvesters showed up at the government building on Wednesday (March 20) to pressure the government to change the system that, they say, eliminates competition for their catches and reduces dock prices.



This just weeks before the new season is expected to begin in the world's largest snow crab fishery with a dock price yet to be set.

The protestors, led by Efford, want the government to allow outside buyers to do business with local harvesters. They also want the province to eliminate the rule that imposes a cap on the amount of crab that can be processed by any one factory in the province.

The Fish Food and Allied Workers (FFAW) harvesters union also supports the protestors' demands, as previously reported by [Undercurrent](#).

The protestors blocked all points of entry to the building on Wednesday (March 20), the day the provincial government planned to introduce the budget for 2023-24.

Some civil servants were able to gain access to the building, but not without a lot of pushing, shoving and heated exchanges. Angry protestors yelled and cursed and, in at least one case, told an aide to premier Andrew Furey to "Go the f*** home."

By 11:00 a.m. Newfoundland daylight time on Wednesday, the provincial government decided to delay the budget, saying, "Presently, the conditions are unsafe for employees and visitors to the complex, and there is a threat of violence."



 read also



Newfoundland government postpones budget discussions due to 'unsafe' conditions caused by crab protest

The budget is now expected to be delivered Thursday.

Meanwhile, to show support for the St. John's protestors, harvesters on the province's west coast are also planning a demonstration on Thursday at government offices in Corner Brook.

Contact the author

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Comments (0)

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From: Renouf, Craig
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2024 10:14 AM
To: Loveless, Elvis, Chippett, Jamie, Baldwin, Paul, Hanlon, Bren M., Adams, Blair, Balsom, Stephen, Deering, Keith, Shea, Erin, Skinner, Linda
Subject: MORNING MEDIA - March 22, 2024

FFAW

SNOW CRAB NEGOTIATIONS HEADING TO PANEL FOR DECISION ON PRICING FORMULA

HOME SNOW CRAB NEGOTIATIONS HEADING TO PANEL FOR DECISION ON PRICING FORMULA

March 21, 2024

Bargaining for a market-based pricing formula for snow crab has come to a halt, and the two parties will head to the provincial Price Setting Panel next Thursday to argue final offers for selection by the Panel.

The Negotiating Committee has been in St. Johns since Sunday in attempt to work out a deal with ASP on a market-based pricing formula for snow crab, but they will now head home as talks have stalled.

Parties have until next Wednesday at 4pm to craft their final submission the Price Setting Panel the expectation is that both will submit their version of a formula based on market returns. The FFAWs final submission will be shared with members when prepared. The Panel will then select one of the two formulas for implementation this fishing season.

Members will be advised if any changes are made to this process.

FFAW RESPONDS TO ASP MEDIA STATEMENT, LACK OF CAPACITY STILL CORE OF PROTESTS

HOME FFAW RESPONDS TO ASP MEDIA STATEMENT, LACK OF CAPACITY STILL CORE OF PROTESTS

March 21, 2024

FFAW adamantly disputes ASPs claim that lifting provincial processing caps will harm existing processing plant workers. To be clear, the vast majority of fish harvesters in Newfoundland and Labrador experience trouble finding a reliable buyer for their catch.

This is not a one-off problem, in a single fishery. This is a widespread, systemic issue facing the provincial processing landscape in our province.

FFAW-Unifor inherently supports keeping work in our province. Longer seasons and more work is better for everyone involved in the inshore fishery.

Harvesters are not able to land their allotted quotas because the plant they are tied to either refuses to or cannot due to caps buy their product. Combined with dramatic decreases in prices last year, and similarly dramatic increases in expenses, the inshore owner-operator fishery is confronting an acute breaking point.

Thousands of owner-operator enterprises are facing bankruptcy, while the small handful of corporations that control the fishery get bigger and bigger. Competition in recent years has declined significantly. ASP member companies employ nearly half the crab processing workers now than when the province had similar quota levels.

Unfortunately, processing companies tell their workers that increasing market access for harvesters will mean losing their jobs. This is a lie, and a harmful one that drives our membership apart.

In recent years, rather than improve work for Newfoundlanders and Labradorians, the majority of ASP member companies have focused on bringing in Temporary Foreign Workers. If these companies were so committed to coastal communities, emphasis would be put on finding ways to recruit and retain local workforce.

More competition is better for our fishery. It is better for fish harvesters, better for plant workers, and better for the long-term sustainability of coastal communities. Because one cannot survive without the other.

Demonstrations will continue tomorrow, Friday, March 22, 2024!

VOCM

Insult to Injury: Snow Crab Negotiations Stall Amid Ongoing Protests

Mar 22, 2024 | 6:15 AM

FFAW President Greg Pretty and ASP Executive Director Jeff Loder

Talks aimed at setting a price for snow crab this season have broken off.

Negotiations between the FFAW and Association of Seafood Producers (ASP) had been ongoing this week against the backdrop of ongoing protests at Confederation Building.

Those protests, which forced a one-day postponement of the budget speech, have been aimed at fixing larger issues in the fishery around outside buyers, plant licences and overall capacity in the industry.

Late Thursday, protest leader John Efford said he had secured a meeting with Fisheries Minister Elvis Loveless this morning, adding demonstrations at Confederation Building would continue until they see progress.

As for snow crab, the hope has been that the union and processors could resolve issues that led to last years lengthy dispute and tie-up that almost scuttled the season.

But in a statement late Thursday, the FFAW said attempts to agree on a market-based formula have once again stalled.

That means the decision will now be left to the provincial price-setting panel.

The union and ASP have until next Wednesday to develop and submit their submissions.

Meanwhile, the back and forth between the two sides continues.

The ASP yesterday addressed what it calls the propaganda and misinformation being spread by the union and harvesters, saying recent behavior defined by threats, intimidation and harassment cannot be tolerated.

And they say granting new processing licenses and adding capacity would be bad for the local seafood sector and the province.

The association says more capacity leads to less work for plants, while lifting caps would pit plants and communities against each other.

The FFAW, meanwhile, adamantly disputes ASPs claim that lifting processing caps will harm existing plant workers.

The union says the vast majority of fish harvesters in NL have trouble finding a reliable buyer for their catch, adding its a widespread, systemic issue facing the provincial processing landscape.

The union says harvesters are unable to land their allotted quotas because the plant they are tied to either refuses to accept it, or can't buy product due to the caps.

Combined with dramatic decreases in prices last year, and similarly dramatic increases in expenses, the union says inshore owner/operators are at an acute breaking point with many facing bankruptcy.

CBC

Fish harvesters score meeting with provincial minister, agree to pause protests

No protests during meeting, says leader

Ryan Cooke CBC News Posted: Mar 22, 2024 9:12 AM NDT | Last Updated: 10 minutes ago

After two days of protests outside the Confederation Building in St. John's, fish harvesters scored a meeting Friday morning with the provincial fisheries minister.

Protest leader John Efford Jr. addressed a crowd of fish harvesters in a parking lot across from the building at 8 a.m. NT, saying he would be going into the meeting alongside the Fish, Food & Allied Workers union executive, including union president Greg Pretty.

But the meeting came with a catch.

"We gave a concession yesterday to get the meeting this morning," he said. "The concession was no protests during the meeting. So our promise in good faith is we're going to remain in this parking lot."

Fish harvesters have been protesting since early March, calling on the provincial government to make several structural changes to the industry. Protests intensified on Wednesday, as harvesters blocked Confederation Building on the day the province was supposed to unveil its 2024-2025 budget.

Government hasn't moved quickly enough on protesters' demands to rejig industry, says harvester and critic
The protests continued on Thursday, leading the government to introduce the budget with no opposition MHAs, labour unions or media in attendance.

Harvesters are demanding "free enterprise" the ability to sell their catch to who they want, when they want and where they want. They also want to see processing limits lifted and new licences issued, giving them more options for selling their products.

The fisheries minister has said he's willing to concede on several demands, and has already issued an expression of interest for outside buyers in the snow crab industry. The harvesters want to see similar changes made in all fisheries.

It's not clear when the meeting will end, but Efford Jr. said he'll update fish harvesters as soon as it's over.

The Telegram

Talks for new crab pricing formula off, protests continue

Fish harvesters union, processors will have to go back to old system of final offer selection to set price before crab fishery begins

The Telegram (St. John's) 22 Mar 2024 CAMERON KILFOY THE TELEGRAM cameron.kilfoy @saltwire.com @cameronkilfoy
JOE GIBBONS THE TELEGRAM

After months of trying to hammer out a new market based pricing formula for snow crab, negotiating teams for the Association of Seafood Producers (ASP) and the Fish, Food and Allied Workers (FFAW) union have walked away from the table just weeks before the start of this years crab fishery.

Both sides will now revert to the previous system, which means heading to the provincial Price Setting Panel, where next Thursday they will argue final price offers for selection by the panel.

A news release by the FFAW on Thursday, March 21, states that both parties have until next Wednesday at 4 p.m. to craft their final submission to the Price Setting Panel the expectation is that both will submit their version of a formula based on market returns. The panel will then select one of the two formulas for implementation this fishing season.

This is the system utilized in 2023, when a dispute delayed the start of the crab fishery for six weeks.

The ASP, in a news release Thursday, stated that conversations between the ASP and the FFAW commenced over six months ago to define a formula for snow crab that would ensure a top-quality product, thereby increasing the value of the fishery to the benefit of all Newfoundland and Labradorians.

The formula (would have) meant to ensure that every harvester will receive the same value for their product regardless of when they fish in the season. When it comes to establishing raw material prices, we need to work with industry partners to negotiate prices that the market will respond to, that are fair to harvesters, and that is financially viable for processors, the ASP stated. But ultimately, prices are driven by the market. Both parties agreed to do everything possible to avoid a delay like we had last year, and we cant let history overshadow the future of the fishery for the province.

FISHERIES PROTEST ISSUES

The ASP says if the government does issue new processing licences and allows for additional processing capacity in the province, it would have a detrimental effect on the local seafood processing sector, and on people in rural communities.

The ASP said the protests at the Confederation Building are an attempt by harvesters to influence government decisions and result in a higher raw material price, when in reality it is leading to stress and challenges for plant workers and local businesses.

That new minister of housing, Fred Hutton, said integration into core government has been done with other entities. He said there will be no job losses or reductions.

The budget documents tout a record expenditure on housing, with almost \$44 million in new funding to create affordable homes and repair and maintain existing ones.

Western Newfoundland fish harvesters worried about industrys future

More than 100 harvesters gathered in Corner Brook in show of solidarity with their demonstrating colleagues in St. Johns

The Telegram (St. John's) 22 Mar 2024 GARY KEAN THE TELEGRAM gary.kean @thewesternstar.com @western_star
GARY KEAN THE TELEGRAM

CORNER BROOK Ernest Decker is 66 and has been fishing for 53 of those years.

The harvester from Rocky Harbour is ready to retire, but is concerned about the current state and the future of the inshore fishery in western Newfoundland.

He was among more than 100 harvesters from all over western Newfoundland who gathered at the Sir Richard Squires Building in Corner Brook on Thursday, March 21 to show their support for the ongoing demonstrations by fish harvesters in St. Johns.

Like those colleagues in St. Johns and other provincial government offices across the province, those who made the trek to Corner Brook want to see more free enterprise in the fishing industry.

Like many others along the west coast of the province, Deckers main species to fish is lobster, though he does have small crab and halibut quotas too.

He gave his own personal example of what its like being at the whim of buyers under the current system. Last year, he said the union Ffawunifor had negotiated a price of \$8.45 per pound for lobster.

Decker went out and caught lobster, assuming he knew how much hed be getting paid for them.

However, when he went to sell them, the buyer refused to do so for that price. A week later, the buyer took the lobster from Decker for \$7.26 per pound.

That means lobster harvesters lost \$1.19 on a pound of lobsters, which added up to be thousands of dollars for each harvester from St. Anthony right on down the coast, said Decker. Were hoping theres not going to be a repeat of that this year.

Thats why fish harvesters are talking about outside buyers.

HARD TO GET INTO

Experiences like that do not make getting into the fishery attractive for young harvesters.

Colby House of Daniels Harbour is 19 and has been trying to make a go of it in the fishery, like his father and grandfather before him, for the last two years.

House, who is also primarily a lobster harvester, said its already expensive enough trying to find his way into the industry. The uncertainty around being able to sell his product for an acceptable price in a timely manner is definitely concerning for him.

If Im just getting into fishing and a buyer tells me hes not going to buy lobsters from me for a week or two weeks, thats a lot of money gone out of my pocket by the time he starts buying, he said. Its no secret the fishery is very expensive to get into and theres not going to be a lot of young people doing it. If everybody is making it tougher and tougher to get into, eventually youre going to push them all away from it.

House, who was also part of the group of harvesters in Corner Brook on Thursday, hopes to see the changes harvesters and their union are demanding. At the top of the list is being able to sell their catch to whoever they can.

I think we need more opportunities and more outside influence on buyers, he said. I dont think theres enough competition in the market for us.

NO MASTER PLAN

For Decker, the future of the fishery in western Newfoundland is not just about lobster, of which he says there are plenty.

He would like to see government address the need to rebuild groundfish stocks too.

We have a number of fisheries that have collapsed or closed and there is no master plan in place for rebuilding these stocks, said Decker. So, where are we headed down the road? What are we going to do for the younger people coming through?

There was a limited, two-week commercial cod fishery off the west coast, but it was closed two years ago.

We were only allowed 3,000 pounds a week, said Decker. If the stocks can't withstand that, it's in bad shape and I can only see it going down from here if things don't change.

A MATTER FOR ALL SPECIES

The ongoing demonstrations come as the scheduled start of the 2024 snow crab season nears.

Last year's start date of April 10 saw crab harvesters, upset with the price they were offered, tie up their boats for six weeks in protest.

While there is still no agreed-upon price for snow crab for this year and no opening date or quotas announced, the protests go beyond concerns about the crab fishery.

Jeff Griffin, FFAW-unifors member representative for 4R3PN, which covers the Northern Peninsula and southwest coast of Newfoundland, emphasized the call for changes are for all species and not just snow crab.

This issue of not having free enterprise affects all species, he said.

Thursday's demonstration in Corner Brook was a peaceful one. Harvesters did not impede traffic or stop anyone from entering or leaving the provincial government building.

There was a small police presence, but the few officers there remained on the opposite side of the parking lot.

Griffin said, while the demonstration was a one-time show of solidarity with other harvesters, the members from the west coast may return to the provincial government building again.

We'll wait and see how things play out on the east coast and who knows, maybe we'll be back, he said.

Confederation Building protest temporary injunction in place until mid-april

FFAW lawyer says union not sure what its role will be

The Telegram (St. John's) 22 Mar 2024 EVAN CAREEN THE TELEGRAM evan.careen@thetelegram.com [@evancareen](https://www.thetelegram.com)

A court injunction handed down Wednesday, March 20, preventing protesters from blocking access to Confederation Building will be in place until at least April 15.

The case was called in St. John's Supreme Court, with lawyer Greg Kirby there representing the Fish, Food and Allied Workers Union (FFAW-unifor), who were served with the injunction.

Justice Robert Stack, who ordered the injunction and that it be served to the FFAW and others, reiterated in court that he was not saying FFAW-unifor had organized the protest or had a role, but there could be value in providing them with the injunction.

Kirby said he understood that and asked the court to give the union some time to prepare to debate the merits of the motion, but added he wasn't sure what the role of the union would be at the next appearance. He said the specifics of what role the union would take would be determined before the next appearance.

David Hearn, who represented the government in the appearance, told the court that two people who identified as organizers of the protest, John Efford Jr. and Jason Spingle, were served with the injunction earlier that day. Spingle is the secretary-treasurer of the FFAW.

The injunction prevents protesters from stopping anyone from entering the building or blocking nearby roads or parking lots in any way.

The order will also prevent protesters from stopping people from entering the Confederation Building and from molesting, threatening, assaulting or intimidating the provinces servants, agents or employees.

NTV

Crab price negotiations break off as fishery protests continue

Posted: March 21, 2024 7:40 pm

By Bailey Howard

<https://ntv.ca/crab-price-negotiations-break-off-as-fishery-protests-continue/>

Fishery protests spread to premiers office in Corner Brook

Posted: March 21, 2024 7:40 pm

By Don Bradshaw

<https://ntv.ca/fishery-protests-spread-to-premiers-office-in-corner-brook/>

Intrafish

Salmon farmer Cermaq to cull 900,000 fish due to infection

The company is culling fish in six cages at its Olderfjord site.

21 March 2024 13:55 GMT UPDATED 21 March 2024 16:31 GMT

By Vilde Ferah Molven and Dominic Welling

Salmon farmer Cermaq has begun a cull of up to 900,000 fish at a site in northern Norway due to bacterial wound infections, the latest worrying development for an industry hit by record mortality and growing concerns around fish welfare.

Cermaq said the removal of fish from six cages at its Olderfjord site in Hammerfest had already begun. The cages would be emptied within a few days, the company said in a statement.

Fish welfare has become a major topic of concern for the salmon farming sector in Norway. The country reported a record 62.7 million salmon deaths in netpens last year and the mortality rate across Norway rose to 16.7 percent, due partly to deadly jellyfish attacks.

Another Norwegian salmon farmer, SalMar, reported this week that more than 700,000 mortalities had occurred in just seven weeks at one of its sites in the north of the country.

Cermaq said on Thursday the situation at its Olderfjord site was desperate.

We have seen increased mortality in these cages since the beginning of January this year, as a result of jellyfish and a period of storms, which have subsequently led to bacterial wound infections," the company said.

Astrid Aam, communications manager at Cermaq, said in the same statement that a decision to remove, anesthetize and euthanize the fish in six of the cages at the facility had been taken after a long period of consultation with the Norwegian Food Safety Authority.

The fish at the facility are approximately 500 grams in size on average, the company said, and no treatment would be able to save them. Cermaq said it was concerned that infection from the six cages could spread to the rest of the farm.

"It is a difficult decision, the company added, as there are also many individuals in these cages that show normal behavior and appetite.

In a bid to bring the industry together in tackling high mortality rates, SalMar announced this month that it will invest NOK 500 million (\$47 million/43 million) in what it calls a "Salmon Living Lab". It is seeking partners for the venture, having already brought US agricultural giant Cargill on board.

Craig Renouf

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From: [Renouf, Craig](#)
Sent: [Friday, March 22, 2024 1:25 PM](#)
To: [Loveless, Elvis, Chippett, Jamie, Baldwin, Paul, Hanlon, Bren M., Shea, Erin](#)
Subject: [MORE MEDIA - March 22, 2024](#)

CBC

Fish harvesters reach deal with N.L. government to allow catch to be sold outside province

No protests during meeting, says protest leader

Ryan Cooke 7 CBC News 7 Posted: Mar 22, 2024 9:12 AM NDT | Last Updated: 8 minutes ago

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/newfoundland-labrador/fisheries-protests-day-3-1.7151989>

VOCM

Harvesters, Government Hammer Out A Good Deal : John Efford Jr.

Mar 22, 2024 | 10:37 AM

FFAW representatives have emerged from a meeting with the provincial government to say they have a good deal.

Harvester John Efford, who has been leading the charge for change in the fishery, made the announcement to hundreds of protesters just before noon today.

It came after a three-hour meeting between union officials and Fisheries Minister Elvis Loveless.

The union says as a result, outside buyers will have unlimited access to harvesters willing to sell, no matter the species.

A committee has also been set up to oversee the changes.

Earlier today, police returned to the parking lot outside the entrance to Confederation Building as protesting harvesters waited for results of the meeting.

The two sides went into closed-door meetings this morning to hash out some of the issues harvesters say are hindering their ability to make a living.

The stakes couldn't be higher with the opening of the snow crab fishery just a week or so away.

Harvesters had been in a holding pattern in the overflow lot next to Confederation Building since talks got underway around 8:30 this morning.

Earlier Story

Harvesters who have been protesting outside Confederation Building for the last week are in a holding pattern for the time being as FFAW leadership meet with the provincial fisheries minister to discuss ongoing issues in the fishery.

John Efford, who has been leading the protests has joined FFAW leadership in meetings that started this morning.

In the meantime, harvesters who have been rallying in the parking lot outside Confederation Building have been asked to stay in the overflow parking area until the talks wrap up, awaiting further developments.

VOCM News is following the story and will have details as they become available.

FFAW Website

MEDIA RELEASE: HARVESTER & PROCESSOR REPS WALK OUT OF CAPELIN ADVISORY, EXTREMIST ENGOS APPOINTED PARTICIPANTS

March 22, 2024

The 2+3 Capelin advisory kicked off this morning in Gander, with virtual and in person participation. Late this morning, participants were informed that ENGOs Oceans North and Oceana were changed from observer to stakeholder status, giving the extremist organizations who actively work to shut down the commercial fishery an active seat at the table. Qualipu First Nation, harvesters, and processors, who all hold true stakeholder status in the advisory processes, agreed that there is no place for these types of organizations at the table. These representatives walked out of the meeting in protest of DFO's decision, and the meeting ended without the presentation of science information.

Craig Renouf

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From: [Renouf, Craig](#)
Sent: [Friday, March 22, 2024 5:08 PM](#)
To: [Loveless, Elvis](#), [Chippett, Jamie](#), [Baldwin, Paul](#), [Hanlon, Bren M.](#), [Shea, Erin](#)
Subject: [MORE MEDIA - March 22, 2024](#)

CBC

Fish harvesters reach deal with N.L. government to allow catch to be sold to outside buyers

Agreement also reached on changing capacity limits, says FFAW

Ryan Cooke 7 CBC News 7 Posted: Mar 22, 2024 9:12 AM NDT | Last Updated: 10 minutes ago

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/newfoundland-labrador/fisheries-protests-day-3-1.7151989>

Harvesters confrontations 'embarrassing' : Association of Seafood Producers executive director

4 hours agoNewsDuration1:36

Jeff Loder, who represents seafood producers in Newfoundland and Labrador, says the protesters clashing with police and blocking people from entering Confederation Building is a poor look for the provincial fishery. He tells the CBC's Terry Roberts that some market restrictions are necessary to support plant workers in the province.

<https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/1.7152261>

FFAW WEBSITE

FISH HARVESTERS CELEBRATE MARKET FREEDOM, INCREASED COMPETITION

March 22, 2024

ST. JOHN S, NL Fish harvesters around Newfoundland and Labrador are celebrating the power of collective action today with important policy changes that will improve market access in the contentious industry.

Fish harvesters have been protesting at government landmarks province-wide this week, with the largest crowd gathering outside of the Confederation Building in St. John's demanding free enterprise. Specifically, harvesters have been successful in getting the government's commitment to allow applications from outside buyers in all species, to undertake an independent review of the provincial licensing policy in the province, as well as to implement a Committee that will monitor capacity levels during the crab season.

Today is a victory for the people of our province. What has been accomplished by the power of collective action is no small feat. This is a great first step in restoring balance, as harvesters take back control and increase competition in the market, says Greg Pretty, FFAW-Unifor President. Plant workers need successful fish harvesters if there's going to be a future in this industry, Pretty says.

I am ecstatic with the agreement we achieved here today and want to thank everyone involved, says fish harvester John Efford. Significant effort went into considering all aspects of the changes we were asking for and the potential consequences on plant workers. Again and again, it was clear that this is going to be better. What we achieved here today will mean a monumental positive change for the future of our fishery.

Change is never easy, and it's easy to criticize people from afar. I want to thank Minister Elvis Loveless, Premier Andrew Furey, and all the elected officials who stepped up this week to make change happen. This has been a very long time coming, and at the end of it all we've built a stronger relationship with the provincial government to achieve the goals of our members, says Secretary-Treasurer Jason Spingle.

The provincial government has agreed to provide the agreement in writing, detailing all of the agreed upon policy changes.

Today is a victory for Newfoundland and Labrador, and tonight we will celebrate the success of collective action and standing up for what is right. Next week, we get right back to business and wrap up negotiations for snow crab, concludes Pretty.

Seafoodnews.com

N.L. Protest Cause Rooted in Price-Setting Systems for Fishers and Processors

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By Michael Tutton

March 22, 2024

The protest that erupted Wednesday outside the legislature in Newfoundland and Labrador has its roots in a complex, years-long struggle between independent fish harvesters and processors over the price-setting system, industry observers say.

The issues at the heart of the dispute go back decades, but on Wednesday the growing frustrations boiled over at a demonstration that saw mounted police riding into a crowd and two people — one a police officer — being taken away on stretchers.

On Thursday, the protest continued as the budget — which was postponed due to the conflict — was delivered, as police wearing riot gear stood at the legislature entrance.

Sean Cadigan, a professor of history at Memorial University, said in an interview Thursday that one underlying factor in the tensions is the plunge in prices for snow crab, the province's most valuable seafood export. From highs of over seven dollars per pound during the pandemic, the price fell to about two dollars per pound last year, creating hardships for harvesters at a time harvesters' expenses are rising.

He said that has combined with long-standing suspicions that harvesters have toward the small group of companies that dominate fish processing in the province.

"There is discontent in the province over how prices are being set," Cadigan said, adding that last season the low prices led to a six-week tie-up by fishers in the spring before they agreed to start catching crab.

Cadigan said the harvesters, frustrated by market conditions, have turned their attention toward government as a potential saviour, demanding that it take measures such as allowing more buyers from outside the province.

That alone would be a historical shift for the province, where for decades the focus was on processing fish caught off Newfoundland and Labrador at local plants — a principle that governments tampered with at their political peril.

"Harvesters in the industry have changed a lot from the days in which they might have favoured the notion that we should maximize benefits from the harvesting of fish resources within the province," said Cadigan.

Some protesters have also said in interviews this week that the province should change the limits on several smaller processing plants, allowing them to purchase more of the catch — whether it be crab, lobster or shrimp — on the theory that it could create more competition and raise prices.

Cadigan said since the province has control over the processing rules, and how much catch goes to which factories, it's natural for the fishers to turn to the provincial Fisheries Department to demand changes, in hopes this will improve competition.

The province has said it is responding to the various demands from the Food, Fish and Allied Workers, which represents the fishers. Elvis Loveless, the provincial fisheries minister, said this week his government is inviting in new buyers and is open to changing the buying limits of some processing factories.

"The provincial government will increase processing capacity in the snow crab industry before the start of the 2024 snow crab fishing season," Loveless said in a release Thursday, adding the extent of the increase will depend on what the federal Fisheries Department determines the allowable catch should be.

However, Cadigan said one of the ironies about the dispute is that even if the fishers were to have their demands met for regulatory change, they may not find it radically changes the prices harvesters would receive.

"I'm not convinced that conditions outside the province are all that much more competitive than they are inside the province. So, I don't know how much change people will see in the buying of fish over the long haul," he said.

NTV

I think we ve got a good deal, John Efford tells protesting fish harvesters

Posted: March 22, 2024 10:58 am | Last Updated: March 22nd, 2024 5:00 pm

By Bailey Howard

John Efford emerged from a meeting with fisheries minister Elvis Loveless Friday to tell protesting fish harvesters there is a deal with the provincial government.

I think we ve got a good deal, Efford said through a bull horn alongside FFAW President Greg Pretty.

The deal will allow any species to be sold to any outside buyer, which will be overseen by a committee that will include Efford, Pretty and a processor.

The deal was not a deal that was forced upon me, Efford added, saying he was instrumental in the deal. This is a deal that I see as being the best deal.

The announcement came after two days of protests at Confederation Building calling for free enterprise in the fishery.

Fish harvesters met with the minister this morning after price negotiations broke down with the Association of Seafood Producers.

The FFAW and ASP had been trying to work out a market-based pricing formula for snow crab, but the talks stalled on Thursday. The two parties will present their final offers to the province s price-setting panel, which will select one of the two formulas for implementation this fishing season.

Harvesters and plant workers spent the lats two days protesting at Confederation Building, delaying the provincial budget by a day. Today, the FFAW and protest leaders secured a meeting with the fisheries minister on the condition that they not protest this morning. Protesters and police are still on standby.

Craig Renouf

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152 of 175

From: MPO.NePasRepondre-DoNotReply.DFO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca <MPO.NePasRepondre-DoNotReply.DFO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2024 10:05 AM
To: Hanlon, Bren M.
Subject: Notice to Fish Harvesters - 2024 Newfoundland and Labrador Snow Crab Fishery - nf.24.037

CAUTION :Â 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.

FISHERIES AND OCEANS CANADA

NOTICE TO FISH HARVESTERS

nf.24.037B

Mar. 25, 2024

2024 Newfoundland and Labrador Snow Crab Fishery

Fisheries and Oceans Canada advises that the details of the 2024 management measures and quota levels for the Snow Crab fishery in Newfoundland and Labrador are now available at:

<https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fisheries-peches/decisions/fm-2024-gp/at1-06-eng.html>

"Notices to Fish Harvesters" for all commercial fisheries are now available online under the Fishery Notices link on the DFO NL Region webpage at: <https://www.nfl.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/en>

If you would like to have all "Notices to Fish Harvesters" for commercial fisheries sent directly to you by email please contact: miranda.pryor@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

-30-

For information, contact:
Martin Henri
Senior Resource Manager
Resource Management and Indigenous Fisheries
martin.henri@dfo-mpo.gc.ca
Tel: (709) 693-4744

From: [Renouf, Craig](#)
Sent: [Monday, March 25, 2024 12:06 PM](#)
To: [Loveless, Elvis](#), [Chippett, Jamie](#), [Baldwin, Paul](#), [Hanlon, Bren M.](#), [Adams, Blair](#), [Deering, Keith](#), [Balsom, Stephen](#), [Shea, Erin](#), [Skinner, Linda](#)
Subject: [MORNING MEDIA - March 25, 2024](#)

DFO Website

2024 Snow Crab fishery TAC, Newfoundland and Labrador

Snow Crab fishery in Newfoundland and Labrador (Areas 2HJ, 3KLNO, 3Ps, and 4R3Pn)

<https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fisheries-peches/decisions/fm-2024-gp/atl-06-eng.html>

FFAW WEBSITE

NOTICE TO FISH HARVESTERS - 2024 NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR SNOW CRAB FISHERY - NF.24.037

March 25, 2024

FISHERIES AND OCEANS CANADA

NOTICE TO FISH HARVESTERS

<https://ffaw.ca/notice-to-fish-harvesters-2024-newfoundland-and-labrador-snow-crab-fishery-nf-24-037/>

NTV

2024 Snow crab management decision

Posted: March 25, 2024 10:19 am

📧 By Becky Daley

Today, Fisheries and Oceans Canada announced that the 2024 Snow crab Total Allowable Catch (TAC) will be 57,568 tonnes, an increase of 5.2 per cent from last year. This decision prioritizes responsible stewardship of this resource, while also recognizing its economic importance.

This decision aligns with the Precautionary Approach Framework and considers the latest scientific advice, as well as stakeholder input and socio-economic analysis.

The recent stock assessment indicates that the exploitable biomass of Snow crab is currently stable with nearly all Snow crab assessment divisions in Newfoundland and Labrador maintaining a healthy status within the Precautionary Approach Framework.

During the most recent stock assessment, DFO also fulfilled its commitment to conduct a review of the potential to combine the 3L inshore and offshore science assessment areas. This resulted in the combining of these areas, as previously requested by stakeholders.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada recognizes the economic importance of sustainable fisheries to communities. They will continue to work with stakeholders and partners on the management of this important fishery.

VOCM

Harvesters Declare Victory; Head Home

Mar 23, 2024 | 6:30 AM

Harvesters, declaring victory after a weeks-long protest at Confederation Building, climbed aboard their vehicles and drove home after being told that their demands to wrest some of the control away from local processors had finally been met.

FFAW leadership and John Efford, who had led the protests at Confederation Building for the last few weeks, met with provincial fisheries minister Elvis Loveless for several hours yesterday.

Efford emerged from the meeting and, grabbing a bullhorn, provided the news harvesters had been waiting to hear.

He was met with cheers and applause as he declared "I think we got a good deal."

Harvesters have a commitment that outside buyers will have unlimited access to all species, a sticking point for many who wanted to ensure they're getting the best price in the market for their catch.

In addition, Efford told harvesters, a committee will be set up to oversee the changes. "and I made sure that I'm going to be on that committee!" he said to thunderous applause.

Protesting harvesters had turned to Efford — the son of former Fisheries Minister John Efford — as their official spokesperson on the ground, prompting questions about his ambitions — either on the union level or in the political realm.

"All I want to do is go fishing, that's why I'm here," he told reporters yesterday.

Minister Calls Meeting Productive

Provincial Fisheries Minister Elvis Loveless calls yesterday's meeting productive with "positive outcomes" for harvesters, plant workers and all in the fishing industry.

He says the province shares the same goal of an organized start to the 2024 fishing season.

Opposition Reacts

Tony Wakeham

Opposition Leader Tony Wakeham, who peppered government with questions on the concerns raised by harvesters in the House of Assembly's spring sitting, says a deal should have been done months ago.

Wakeham says it took a "full-on crisis" to catch government's attention.

Wakeham says he'll continue to monitor progress and if government fails to deliver, he'll continue to hold decision-makers accountable.

CBC

Fisheries protests give rise to a new John Efford — but what's next for the unofficial leader?

Fishermen fought the same issue in 1996, when a different John Efford was in charge

Ryan Cooke · CBC News · Posted: Mar 25, 2024 6:00 AM NDT | Last Updated: 3 hours ago

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/newfoundland-labrador/john-efford-future-ffaw-1.7153994>

Fishery protests 'embarrassing for the province', says head of producers' association

Increasing capacity for harvesters was never necessary, says Jeff Loder

Alex Kennedy · CBC News · Posted: Mar 23, 2024 6:00 AM NDT | Last Updated: March 23

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/newfoundland-labrador/loder-fish-deal-1.7152398>

The Telegram

Harvesters make deal with province

Fishermen happy with commitments on allowing outside buyers, raising processing caps and granting more processing licences

The Telegram (St. John's) 23 Mar 2024 GARY KEAN THE TELEGRAM gary.kean @thewesternstar.com @western_star

CORNER BROOK They came, they demanded change and they got what they were looking for.

Shortly after a morning meeting with the provincial government, the leader of the fish harvesters' protest in St. John's emerged from the Confederation Building on Friday, March 22, with good news for his colleagues anxiously waiting in the parking lot.

"I believe we put together a good deal this morning. This deal is not a deal that was forced upon me, this is a deal I see as being the best deal," John Efford Jr. said, to a round of hearty applause.

Hundreds of harvesters

showed up at the Confederation Building on Wednesday, March 20, preventing anyone from accessing the seat of the provincial government and forcing a delay in bringing down the 2024 budget.

The harvesters have been demanding more free enterprise in the fishing industry, so they are not beholden to the few buyers available to them. They also wanted more processing licences granted and the elimination of processing caps, so plants can accept their catches.

THE COMMITMENTS

Efford told the harvesters the government has committed to giving outside buyers unlimited access to the province's fishery.

He also said there was a commitment given to raising processing caps.

"As we raise caps, we will have a committee to be in control to make sure it doesn't come under corporate control," Efford said, to jubilant cheering from the harvesters.

"Here's the thing: you can afford nice clothes and shoes. Good for you. But others can't afford food. You aren't in the private sector, you are an elected gov't official. Ask yourself: Is it in good taste to flaunt your riches when Cdn food bank usage is at an all time high?" wrote another person.

"Posting this privilege with the events of the last few months, and days, you should be ashamed of not understanding the people who depend on your leadership. Shows us how out of touch GOV is!" said another.

The comments continued along these lines.

NOT MEANT TO BE INSENSITIVE

A small number of people came to the finance minister's defence.

"These are local businesses that she is thanking for providing her with a new outfit. I don't believe this was meant to be insensitive or mean. We are all struggling. Maybe they are too?" wrote one person.

Mount Pearl-southlands MHA Paul Lane joined in on the conversation as well.

"I'm sure she didn't mean it to be insensitive or mean," he wrote.

"Unfortunately, when people are frustrated and struggling financially they are much more sensitive. From a pure political point of view, just an honest mistake and case of perhaps not reading the room," Lane wrote.

Saltwire contacted Coady's communications officials for comment on the intention of the post, but did not receive a response by press deadline.

FUN TRADITION CAN GO OFF THE RAILS

Political scientist Alex Marland told Saltwire on Friday the budget shoe tradition dates back to at least the 1950s, and it is a practice that's uniquely Canadian.

Marland said it's a tradition that is meant to be fun.

"But it can go off the rails if you don't look at it through the lens of all the different variables that exist," he said.

Marland is the Jarislowsky Chair in Trust and Political Leadership at Acadia University and was previously a political scientist at Memorial University, and he has specifically studied the budget day shoe tradition.

Marland said ministers have interpreted the tradition in many different ways over the years, and gave examples of some finance ministers who have used the idea to collect money for charity. He said one minister, for example, used a shoe box to collect money from caucus members to donate.

"So, you still have the shoe, right? But you come up with something that's a little more creative."

A BIT OF A COMMUNICATIONS FAIL

In this particular case, Marland called Coady's tweet "a bit of a communications fail."

"In a democracy, you're meant to be relatable," he said.

Marland said he suspects the reaction to her tweet would have been different if it didn't occur amid the fish harvesters' protest.

"As soon as all these protests are going on, it might make sense to kind of rethink your communication strategy about this," he said.

"I think in this case, the public reaction, I can completely, I immediately had the same reaction that, you know, I would have advised this is not the right look.

"So, I think we have to balance it with a degree of women get treated more harshly on these things because a man could have a pair of brand new expensive penny loafers and people wouldn't get as angry as they would seeing "

women's shoes would seem more dressy, and so there's a level of disconnect with the public about treating women more harshly, and I think that's an important message.

But I also think that the reality is that given all the economic hardships that people are feeling right now, usually in the past what has happened is when there are tough times what ministers do is, their message is they resole their shoes, or they show some other thing, or if they are going to use expensive shoes, kind of like with Chrystia Freeland, it's to show they're supporting the local business," Marland said.

In this case, the tweet mentions (Soul Studio and) Sooley Designs, but it doesn't actually focus on the minister being there and highlighting the business as opposed to necessarily focusing on the shoes, which are probably more expensive than the average Newfoundlander can afford.

Headlines

MILK PRODUCTION RESUMES AT CENTRAL DAIRIES: Milk production has resumed at Central Dairies facility in Mount Pearl according to Agropur. ["Crosby Williams", Pondview Farm; "Guillaume Bérubé", Agorpur Spokesperson]
CBN - St. John's - 7am News @ 07:02:51am Duration: 00:01:31 Reporter: Elizabeth Whitten
Ref Id: y8D-5R6-25

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From: Renouf, Craig
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2024 5:16 PM
To: Loveless, Elvis, Chippett, Jamie, Baldwin, Paul, Hanlon, Bren M., Shea, Erin
Subject: VOCM OPEN LINE - March 25, 2024
Attachments: OPEN LINE - Jeff Loder ASP (Pt. 1) - March 25, 2024.m4a, OPEN LINE - Jeff Loder ASP (Pt. 2) - March 25, 2024.m4a, OPEN LINE - Eldrid on Crab Fishery - March 25, 2024.m4a, OPEN LINE - Justin Brake on Fishery Protest (Pt. 1) - March 24, 2024.m4a, OPEN LINE - Justin Brake on Fishery Protest (Pt. 2) - March 24, 2024.m4a

Please find attached audio of following call to Open Line today

COMMENTS FROM ASP PART I: "Jeff Loder" says that last week the ASP was not part of the negotiations and what was negotiated about is different then what the harvester are talking about. An outside buyer comes to the province and they are still subject to all the rules here and that means worker's comp and they would have to pay that in this province.

VOCM - St. John's - Open Line @ 11:26:00am Duration: 00:05:00 Reporter: Paddy Daly

Ref Id: z8Q-2G4-25

COMMENTS FROM ASP PART II: "Jeff Loder" from the ASP continues his call. He says that when issues arise they should be able to have a conversation and the union demanded that processors let all the smaller folks go through first. Processors cannot operator if on a weekly basis they don't know who they are dealing with and they have been talking about creating value. It should not be that the processors only job is to be there for when there is fish.

VOCM - St. John's - Open Line @ 11:37:00am Duration: 00:09:00 Reporter: Paddy Daly

Ref Id: s8q-6C4-25

REACTION TO PROTEST: "Justin Brake" editor of The Independent is calling to say something about the protest. The fact that John and other fish harvesters took the lead on this, that is really good and it shows that protests do work. The fish harvesters have faced a lot of challenges. He says that things changed and the Premier said they were only going to talk to the FFAW and it seemed like they realized they needed to make concessions because things could have gotten out of hand.

VOCM - St. John's - Open Line @ 10:24:05am Duration: 00:15:58 Reporter: Paddy Daly

Ref Id: M7Q-3h7-25

FFAW A DICTATORSHIP: "Eldridge" says that for the last 12 years they have been trying to correct the wrongs in the fishery. There is a group that is supposed to be representing fish harvesters but the FFAW leadership is a dictatorship. He says that it is really bad that John Efford had to do what the union would not. He once suggested the free enterprise idea and Dave Decker was against it and would not let members votes.

VOCM - St. John's - Open Line @ 11:49:00am Duration: 00:10:00 Reporter: Paddy Daly

Ref Id: M5U-4P9-25

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159 of 175

From: Hanlon, Bren M.
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2024 10:07 AM
To: Chippett, Jamie
Subject: Something like this?
Attachments: Update Bullets.docx

Brendan Hanlon, CPA
Assistant Deputy Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture
Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture

Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture

Outside Buyers

- On March 19, 2024 the Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture issued an expression of interest for outside buyers for snow crab with an application form.
- Outside buyers provided entry to the province to purchase from local harvesters are required to meet equivalent legislative requirements governing resident processors including:
 - Payment of \$1,000.00 for a temporary Fish Buyer's Licence;
 - Proof of company registration in the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador;
 - Proof of company registration with the Workplace Health, Safety and Compensation Commission and submission of returns;
 - Proof of deduction of Employment Insurance premiums on behalf of harvesters; and,
 - Proof of payment to harvesters as per the Collective Agreement.
- Workers Compensation payments are based on landed revenue, which are deducted by the processors/buyers. If harvesters sell to buyers outside the province outside buyers would be required to pay premiums.
- The **Fish Inspection Act** and its associated regulations requires any person engaged in handling, storing, grading, buying, processing, marketing and transporting fish to be issued a fish buyers license or a fish processing license by the Minister. A fish buyers licence does not have to go through the Fish Processing Licensing Board process.
- Fish harvesters are exempt from this licensing requirement provided they sell the catch directly to a licensed buyer or processor in the province. Fish harvesters are not permitted to ship their fish outside the province.
- To date there has been interest expressed by four companies with two applications received from local companies, one from TriNav Group of Companies and from Dandy Dan's Fish Market.
- The other two inquiries have been from Nova Scotia but no applications have been received to date.
- The department implemented a pilot project in both 2014 and 2015 to explore opportunities to better utilize the cod resource in NAFO Area 3Ps and enhance marketing capabilities by relaxing the MPRs for this species. To further increase participation in this project, the department considered proposals from in-province retail fish establishment processing licence holders, active primary processors who lost the groundfish species authorization due to inactivity, and outside buyers.
- While the pilot project was open to outside (non-resident) buyers, no licences were issued.

From: Renouf, Craig
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2024 10:12 AM
To: Loveless, Elvis, Chippett, Jamie, Baldwin, Paul, Hanlon, Bren M., Balsom, Stephen, Adams, Blair, Deering, Keith, Shea, Erin, Skinner, Linda
Subject: MORNING MEDIA - March 26, 2024

VOCM

Harvesters Stand Down as DFO Delays Start to Crab Fishing Season

Mar 26, 2024 | 7:45 AM

Harvesters got the short delay in the crab season they were looking for.

The man who led a series of protests outside Confederation Building last week, waiting for an agreement with government to open up what harvesters hope will be greater competition at the wharf had threatened yesterday to set his sights on Ottawa if DFO went ahead with the scheduled start of the crab fishery.

On VOCM Open Line with Paddy Daly yesterday, John Efford indicated that harvesters want a few more days to sort out the changes agreed to by provincial Fisheries Minister Elvis Loveless.

Please federal government, listen to us, we want this postponed. We don't want to have to turn our protests from provincial to federal, so please, listen to us.

By yesterday afternoon, DFO had released the dates for the snow crab season. The fishery will start in most areas of area 3K on April 14 and in other parts of the northeast coast on April 21. Meanwhile harvesters can set their gear on the south coast and from Cape Freels to Cape St. Mary's starting April 6.

Efford took to Facebook yesterday to ask harvesters to stand down from a planned protest today.

FFAW Website

NOTICE TO FISH HARVESTERS - SNOW CRAB FISHERY - REVISED OPENING DATE - NF.24.040

March 25, 2024

NOTICE TO FISH HARVESTERS

SNOW CRAB FISHERY REVISED OPENING DATE

Fisheries and Oceans Canada advises that the updated season dates for the 2024 Snow Crab fishery in Newfoundland and Labrador are now available at:

<https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fisheries-peches/decisions/fm-2024-gp/atl-06-eng.html>

Notices to Fish Harvesters for all commercial fisheries are now available online under the Fishery Notices link on the DFO NL Region webpage at: <https://www.nfl.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/en>

If you would like to have all Notices to Fish Harvesters for commercial fisheries sent directly to you by email please contact: miranda.pryor@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

The Telegram

Provincial fisheries legislation is dysfunctional

The Telegram (St. John's) 26 Mar 2024

With hundreds of fish harvesters and their supporters massing outside the Confederation Building, the government can no longer get away with offloading responsibility for the fishery's problems.

The harvesters and processors are only doing what provincial laws demand, and as the protesters rightly point out, that isn't working. Here's why:

Our fish processing industry is currently governed by two Acts of the provincial legislature: the Fishing Industry Collective Bargaining Act and the Fish Processing Licensing Board Act. The rules and policies laid down in those two Acts determine and limit what harvesters and processors can and cannot do.

It should be no surprise that they have not been able to reach an agreement on how to proceed for the upcoming season. The standoff now is no longer mainly about price – it is about the fundamentally dysfunctional provincial legislation.

In this province, when we eat fish it is often accompanied by potatoes: fish and chips, fish 'n brewis, fish chowder, to name but a few. Fish and potatoes have accompanied each other for centuries. So why don't we deal with them similarly?

Why don't we have a Potato Industry Collective Bargaining Act and a Potato Processing Licensing Board Act? Because there is no need to have such foolish and unworkable rules and policies. Not for potatoes, and not for fish. The prices for potatoes and for most of the other foods we eat are set by regulated market forces. That would work for fish products as well.

Fish harvesters know and understand the vagaries of the marketplace very well, and they will accept and adapt to its movements. What they will not accept are laws and policies that manipulate the market for the advantage of the middleman, to the disadvantage of both the primary producer and the consumer.

Despite the overwhelming evidence of the past two years, the Province's current final offer selection system assumes that we can set the price of fish. But it is the international market that sets the price, and efforts to subvert that market will continually fail. Harvesters have now fully realized that, hence the protest at the Confederation Building.

What is the solution? The idea of just bringing in outside buyers is a bit of a red herring. Instead, all fish transactions in the province should include, in addition to direct sales, deals made by provincially licensed fish brokers here in N.L. These brokers would have the option of sending some product out of the province unprocessed when the available raw material is in excess of local needs.

This exporting of unfinished product would entail extra costs to the buyer, and would be temporary until extra capacity could be ramped up locally. Removing the restrictions on new processing capacity would increase genuine competition and enable brokers to achieve the best deals. Right now, however, provincial laws prohibit this common-sense solution.

The longstanding problems underlying the current standoff cannot be resolved without changing the existing system with its restrictive and unworkable legal framework. Without a sober recognition of this fact, there is no way that the charade of fishery regulation in this province can be fixed.

The ball is clearly in Premier Furey's court. His government can either side with the working people of this province or continue the monopolistic practices that current legislation perpetuates.

Let's have a recipe that combines fish and potatoes.

Barry Darby,
St. John's

Cheers & Jeers

CHEERS: to a healthy snow crab resource.

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans on Monday announced that the 2024 snow crab total allowable catch (TAC) will be 57,568 tonnes – an increase of 5.2 per cent from last year. That's incredible. The recent stock assessment indicates that the exploitable biomass of snow crab is currently stable, with nearly all snow crab assessment divisions in Newfoundland and Labrador maintaining a healthy status within the precautionary approach framework. This is good news for the future of the crab fishery. But with this spring's fishery start just around the corner – and plant workers anxious to get back to work and fishermen gearing up – there's still the showdown to come over a price for crab. It's too bad it has to come down to the last minute again, but hopefully, a price will be set that will be satisfactory to both sides and that there won't be any delay in the boats hitting the water.

JEERS: to poor communication.

Fisheries workers crowded outside the Confederation Building last week, shutting down the building and delaying the provincial budget by a day. At the same time, there was no clear and transparent communications from government departments about how they planned to proceed with the budget delivery. On Thursday, when the government decided to push ahead with its budget, it cancelled the lock-in for stakeholders without notifying the media (who would typically interview these stakeholders immediately after budget delivery). Government also closed the public gallery of the House of Assembly and main lobby, citing safety concerns. However, it was still planned that the media budget lock-in would go ahead inside Confederation Building, with a last-minute schedule emailed to reporters. Major news outlets then decided against sending reporters into the building on the principle that if it wasn't safe for others, it wasn't safe for them. An offsite virtual technical briefing was hastily put together later in the morning for reporters, but it did not allow the usual time to preview the budget documents before questioning ministers and seeking reaction. It was a chaotic budget day(s) that could have run more smoothly if government communications were more transparent from the start.

A look at the N.L. fishery dispute, how we got here, and why

The Telegram (St. John's) 26 Mar 2024

JOE GIBBONS THE TELEGRAM

Despite a heavy police presence and hundreds of protesting fish harvesters for the second day in a row, employees were once again unable to enter the Confederation Building for work on Thursday, March 21, 2024, but the provincial budget was read in the House of Assembly by the finance minister, Siobhan Coady, on Thursday afternoon. Here, fish harvester and protest organizer John Efford Jr. addresses the gathering of fish harvesters and others outside the Confederation Building.

It is truly amazing that 527 years after the first fish were drawn in baskets from Newfoundland waters, we are not able to agree on just about every aspect of it.

Of course, since the first cod were drawn from the water, fishers now catch crab, lobster, capelin, turbot, red fish, shrimp, char, flounder, haddock, hake, lumpfish and a dozen other species.

Essentially, little has changed since the province was settled and fishers began harvesting fish, first for food to feed their families and then to sell to buyers who processed it and sold it to consumers.

English, French, Spanish and Portuguese fishermen prosecuted the fishery and the fish was caught, processed and transported back to their home countries. Over time, the fishing ships were replaced by trading ships as the island was settled and the need for food products grew and the fishery expanded, towns grew and a thriving local inshore fishery prospered.

SELLING FISH TO BUYERS

So, selling product to buyers became the norm. Individual fishers could not deal with the foreigners, so they sold to the merchants, who sold necessities to them and the truck system was created. Right from the start, the fishers, the harvesters, were treated almost like indentured servants.

The merchants arbitrarily decided what they would pay for the fish. Many, if not all of the fishers, were also functionally illiterate, so when they sold their catches to the merchants they had to depend on the merchants honesty, which in itself is an oxymoron.

Little, if any, cash was given to the fishers. Instead, he was given credit in the merchants stores which supplied everything the fisher needed and by design, at the end of the fishing season the fisher remained indebted to the merchant.

Move ahead now to 1949 and the province joined Canada. Now everyone has to play by the rules set by Canada and the Department of Marine and Fisheries.

EXPANSION

At the end of the Second World War, the fishery expanded rapidly with the introduction of radios, radars, sonar, nylon nets, and it expanded into many different species which inevitably led to overfishing and controls.

By the 1970s, fishers had to acquire a license, and licenses were limited. In January 1977, Canada created a 200-mile limit and controlled all fishing inside its area. Then, in 1979, there came the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Act.

A moratorium in the 1990s, still with effects today, and many, many more issues, changed the fishery to what it is today. A federal government who determines who can catch fish and how much and the size of a boat, the type of gear and the season. A province that decides what happens to the catch once it is landed.

THE PROBLEM

And herein lies the problem, and the protests that resulted in the first time in the province's history that the provincial budget had to be postponed.

Processing licenses are issued by the province and they exercise similar control to the merchants in the old truck system. The processors decide who they buy fish from, the price they will pay and how much they will accept. They also have their own fishing fleets and, over the years, fishermen have borrowed money from them with the guarantee that they will sell their catches to them or the notes will be recalled. And the province is aware of this and is complicit.

The processors have their association: The Association of Seafood Processors. As a group, they decide what they are going to pay the fishers for their catches. Not unlike if Sobey's, Dominion, and the other grocery chains got together and decided what they were going to pay Heinz for a tin of their beans. There are rules against those things, but it doesn't seem to apply in the fishery. The grocery chains compete with each other but the Association of Seafood producers don't compete against each other.

Additionally, the association decides when and how much they will purchase from individual fishers. So, if a fisher has a quota of 10,000 pounds of crab, for example, set by DFO, he may be told by the association that he's only allowed to

catch 1,500 pounds every two weeks not unlike having to tell a farmer that he can only grow 1,000 pounds of potatoes a week.

FFAW

Then added to the mix is the Fish Food and Allied Workers Union, which has now affiliated with Unifor (Union for Everyone). They represent both the harvesters and those who work in the association's processing plants. The union also has its own fishing vessels and licenses.

So, in addition to the conflicts within the union as a harvester and the representative of both the harvesters and those who work in the processing industry, it is the representative that negotiates with the association.

The third party in this mix is the provincial government. They decide who can process fish and where it can be processed.

And herein lies the main problem. They can't set the price the association has to pay harvesters for their product. The government can't tell Sobey's how much to charge for a tin of Heinz beans. And it has to ensure that if product is caught in the province, it is processed in the province maximizing employment.

So, it is faced with a dilemma: it wants to ensure harvesters get the best price for their product and they want to ensure that it is processed in the province.

VIEWPOINTS

The problem, from the association's perspective, is that they want to maximize profit and they can only process so much at a time, otherwise it will spoil.

The problem from the harvesters' perspective is that they are being paid too little for their catches and they are being told when and how much they can catch. And they want to sell to whomever will give them the best price.

The problem from government's perspective is that they can't set prices and it is unwilling to make the hard decisions.

The price issue is the most complicated to resolve but it must be resolved, and an independent price setting panel not unlike the Public Utilities Board has to set the price of the catch and adjust it, as the PUB does with the products it controls.

If a processor wants to maintain a license to process a catch, it cannot limit or dictate to harvesters when and how much it can catch. If it doesn't have the capacity, ship it off to another processor or get out of the business.

Finally, if someone other than a licensed processor wishes to purchase product from harvesters, it should be permitted to do so, but there has to be a levy system developed to compensate processing plant workers who may not get employment because catches are processed outside the province.

TOO MUCH AT STAKE

All of this has gone on too long and the provincial government holds the big stick over the heads of everyone. Politics has to come off the table.

The association has to understand that when a season opens and the harvesters begin fishing, they have to have the capacity to process it. Everyone has to agree that the independent price setting panel sets the prices and there is no debate. If the association doesn't like the price, forfeit their license. If the harvester doesn't like the price, forfeit the license. And no one but the harvester decides when he can catch his quota, if he/she wants to sell it to another processor in the province and with government approval, sell the catch to an out of province processor.

And in the long term, the number of harvesters, the processing capacity and other related issues have to be addressed. This is long-term but work must begin now to address these issues of buying back licenses from fishers if necessary or increasing processing capacity if necessary.

So we know the issues and in all disputes there is give and take.

When I first joined the military, I had disputes with some of my training buddies. When they arose, we were ordered into a room we called The Dungeon. We weren't allowed food or drink or to leave until we resolved our differences.

There is too much at stake here

Go into the dungeon!

Tom Badcock,
St. John's

NTV

Processors say deal with fishery protesters will have negative impact on fish plants

Posted: March 25, 2024 7:45 pm

By Bailey Howard

As the FFAW and fish harvesters celebrate a new deal, the Association of Seafood Producers is doubling down on what it says will be negative impacts for local fish plants. NTV's Bailey Howard has the story.

<https://ntv.ca/processors-say-deal-with-fishery-protesters-will-have-negative-impact-on-fish-plants/>

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From: [Renouf, Craig](#)
Sent: [Wednesday, March 27, 2024 10:40 AM](#)
To: [Loveless, Elvis, Chippett, Jamie, Baldwin, Paul, Hanlon, Bren M., Balsom, Stephen, Adams, Blair, Deering, Keith, Shea, Erin, Skinner, Linda](#)
Subject: [MORNING MEDIA - March 27, 2024](#)

NTV

Province s new fisheries co-operative getting calls from potential outside buyers

Posted: March 26, 2024 7:34 pm

By Bailey Howard

<https://ntv.ca/provinces-new-fisheries-co-operative-getting-calls-from-potential-outside-buyers/>

Northern Cod Assessment for 2024 Confirms Improved Stock Status

Posted: March 26, 2024 11:35 am

By Web Team

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) held a technical briefing on the 2024 science assessment for the 2J3KL Northern cod stock off the northeast coast of Newfoundland and Labrador this morning. The science assessment was peer-reviewed last week and Northern cod was determined to be within the Cautious Zone in 2024, at around 20% above the Limit Reference Point (LRP). Fishing mortality (i.e., the removal of fish from the stock due to fishing) remains very low, consistent since the early 2000s, having little impact on the overall stock status.

Based on the latest assessment, we see some positive signals in the stock, including a wide range of ages, above average cod condition, and continued recruitment. Additionally, the ecosystem surrounding Northern cod continues to be positive for organisms at the base of the food chain like phytoplankton and zooplankton, says Vanessa Byrne, Director of Fisheries Management and Science at the Atlantic Groundfish Council.

This past fall (2023) was the first time since 2020 that DFO were able to complete the Research Vessel survey in 2J3KL. The scientific information collected during this survey is one of the main data inputs used in the assessment of the stock. While the completion of the survey is positive news, unfortunately, it was conducted several weeks early in the 2J and 3K areas. An earlier survey timing likely means a portion of the cod stock was still closer to shore (where the survey does not go) and was therefore missed by the survey.

This is the first year that Northern cod was assessed and will be managed according to the revised Limit Reference Point (LRP). The LRP is the line between the Critical Zone and the Cautious Zone. The revised LRP was the outcome of a science review that used a wider suite of data and a more complete timeline for the iconic stock. As a result, Northern Cod is now considered to have been in the Cautious Zone since 2016.

As an industry, we are adjusting our lens on Northern cod to reflect this change in stock status. From a sustainability perspective, resource management is different for a stock in the Critical Zone versus that of a stock in the Cautious Zone, added Steve Devitt, AGC s Director of Sustainability.

Following last week s science assessment and today s technical briefing, AGC and its members are preparing for DFO s Northern Cod Advisory meeting this week. At those advisory meetings, industry stakeholders will make their recommendations for management measures for the fishery.

The Telegram

Dates and quotas set for Newfoundland and Labrador snow crab fishery, but price not yet resolved

The 2024 crab fishery starts in most areas April 6, while the price that harvesters will get for their catches isn't expected to be set until April 4

The season was originally scheduled to open Monday, April 1, in most areas, including eastern Newfoundland south of Cape Freels and the southern and western coasts.

Later in the day, DFO announced that date would be pushed back to April 6 to give more time for a snow crab price to be set.

Some parts of the northeast coast are not slated to open until April 14, while it will be April 21 in the White Bay and Green Bay areas before pots can be put in the water.

The opening date for the fishery off the Labrador coast will be determined later.

There is a 5.2 per cent increase in the overall quota for the coming season.

This season's quota has been set at 57,568 tonnes.

At what price?

While those matters are clear, harvesters and processors have yet to agree on a price for crab.

A dispute over the price set last season led to a six-week delay in the fishery getting started as harvesters refused to take to the water for the \$2.20 price they were offered.

That price, which harvesters eventually conceded to in May 2023, was set by the province's Standing Fish Price-Setting Panel. The decision was left in the hands of the panel after FFAW-Unifor, the union that represents harvesters and fish plant workers, and the Association of Seafood Processors (ASP) could not agree on the price.

The panel's role is to accept submissions from both sides and hold a hearing with the parties before accepting one proposal or the other in what is known as the final offer selection process.

The panel decided to side with processors, a decision that harvesters refused to accept last spring, leading to the delayed start.

Price-setting formula

Since then, FFAW-Unifor and the ASP have both publicly stated they would prefer a price-setting formula that sees both sides share the risk of market fluctuation.

They had been trying to negotiate such a formula throughout the winter, but those talks recently came to a standstill and the issue is now once again set to be resolved by the price-setting panel.

The union and the processors have until 4 p.m. on Wednesday, March 27 to submit their final offers to the panel. A hearing is scheduled to take place on Thursday.

Long weekend?

The hearing takes place on the eve of Good Friday and the long Easter weekend. SaltWire asked the Department of Environment and Climate Change -- under whose jurisdiction the price-setting panel falls -- for clarification as to whether the holiday and the original opening dates will affect the panel's decision-making timeline.

The department confirmed on Tuesday, March 26 that the panel will render its decision on the price on Thursday, April 4, in time for the revised opening dates.

SaltWire asked both FFAW-Unifor and the ASP for interviews regarding the crab season details announced by DFO.

The union did not reply as of deadline but the ASP said the slight increase in the quota was not unexpected.

Processors concerns

The quota increase does not come without concern for the processors association, though.

Harvesters demanding changes to the fishery have been given a commitment by the provincial government to allow more outside buyers into the fishery, to raise processing capacity in the province and to issue more processing licences.

Jeff Loder, the ASP's executive director, said the increased quota will likely contribute to the government's decision to increase capacity, which the association does have some issues with, especially for the long-term effect it might have on the industry.

There's a need for reform of the policies around processing in this province and I believe the province is going in that direction and we would certainly applaud that, said Loder.

The issue is if there are new entrants and you are assigning additional capacity by lifting existing processing caps, it's a situation where, even if that is absorbed by the new quota, in four or five, three or maybe even two years from now, when you're in a situation where you have a reduced quota (and) you have more processors, that could impact the amount of hours plant workers get.

Hardship for plant workers

Loder said less crab to go around to more production sites will make it harder for some plant workers to meet the eligibility requirements needed to qualify for full Employment Insurance benefits.

We are concerned with that and there has to be some consideration for that, said Loder.

As for the season start dates, Loder had no issue, noting that it's nothing beyond the normal start time.

Regarding the timing of this week's panel submissions, hearing and deliberations, Loder said there is little that can be done at this point, besides submitting proposals and letting the panel do its job.

The time constraints are challenging, but it's not that different than other years, he said.

VOCM

Cod Stocks at High Risk of Dropping Back to Critical

Mar 26, 2024 | 1:35 PM

<https://vocm.com/2024/03/26/cod-stocks-at-high-risk-of-dropping-back-to-critical/>

Poor Prognosis For Cod Stocks Given Sluggish Capelin Numbers

Mar 27, 2024 | 6:18 AM

Capelin stocks, which have yet to recover from their catastrophic collapse in 1991, remain at just 10 per cent of their pre-collapse abundance.

The information was shared in DFO's northern cod stock assessment on Tuesday.

DFO research scientist Paul Regular says while cod stocks remain relatively stable and are still in the cautious zone, the likelihood of falling back into the critical zone is high.

Regular says cod stocks are unlikely to build much higher from current levels due to the state of capelin, the primary food source for cod.

What caused the capelin to collapse and what is preventing the stock from rebounding is what he calls the-million-dollar question.

Regular says while there were a variety of causes behind the collapse, including fishing pressure and changing water temperatures, neither have been deemed conclusive.

As for what is preventing stocks from rebounding, Regular says a likely factor is the abundance of zooplankton, on which capelin feed.

We need to see a bit more productivity on things like zooplankton, and that will support capelin growth, which will hopefully support cod growth as well, he said.

CBC

The good and bad news in DFO's latest northern cod assessment

14 hours ago NewsDuration: 2:18

It's steady as she goes for the northern cod stock. But while DFO's latest science shows the stock has stabilized, it isn't growing and is expected to decline in the next few years, even if no fish are taken from the water.

<https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/1.7156188>

DFO delays opening of crab season by a week, staving off more fish harvester protests

Fishermen requested time after reaching agreement with province on sweeping changes

Ryan Cooke 7 CBC News 7 Posted: Mar 26, 2024 1:13 PM NDT | Last Updated: March 26

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/newfoundland-labrador/dfo-snow-crab-season-delayed-1.7155658>

FFAW Website

NOTICE TO FISH HARVESTERS - FISHERIES MANAGEMENT MEASURES TO PROTECT NORTH ATLANTIC RIGHT WHALES IN CANADIAN WATERS - NF.24.048

March 26, 2024

FISHERIES AND OCEANS CANADA

NOTICE TO FISH HARVESTERS

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT MEASURES TO PROTECT NORTH ATLANTIC RIGHT WHALES IN CANADIAN WATERS

DFO advises fish harvesters that the details of the 2024 fisheries management measures to protect North Atlantic right whales (NARW), as announced by the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) on March 26, 2024, are available online at: <http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fisheries-peches/commercial-commerciale/atl-arc/narw-bnan/index-eng.html>

Notices to Fish Harvesters for all commercial fisheries are now available online under the Fishery Notices link on the DFO NL Region webpage at <https://www.nfl.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/en>

If you would like to have all Notices to Fish Harvesters for commercial fisheries sent directly to you by email please contact: miranda.pryor@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Seafoodnews.com

Canada: Some P.E.I. Employers Worried Ottawa's Temporary Worker Cap Will Leave Them Short-Staffed

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By Stephen Brun

March 26, 2024

Some P.E.I. employers worry they'll be scrambling to fill labour gaps if the federal government caps the number of temporary foreign workers in the country.

Immigration Minister Marc Miller said Thursday that the federal government is planning to reduce the proportion of temporary residents in Canada's population over the next three years.

Temporary residents made up 6.2 per cent of Canada's population in 2023, and the government is working to reduce that share to five per cent by 2027.

From seafood processing plants to restaurants, it's no secret that many Island employers have become reliant on temporary foreign workers.

David Groom, owner of the Quality Inn and Brothers 2 restaurant in Summerside, said there just aren't enough local applicants for roles like housekeeping and cooking.

He said about a dozen of his 100 employees are temporary foreign workers, but Ottawa's announcement has him concerned about recruiting new employees and retraining the ones he has.

"We still have some people that are looking for their permanent residency, and that's a concern with what's been announced lately. They want to stay here and we're really concerned. It's quite impactful to us because we're coming into our summer season," Groom said.

"This is a process we've been [using] since 2018 because we can't find the local individuals that want to do these particular jobs, so it forced us to go this direction. If that's going to dry up, it's going to be a real difficulty in the industry as a whole."

On Thursday, federal Employment Minister Randy Boissonnault said that as of May 1, the government will start reducing the number of temporary foreign workers that employers in certain sectors are allowed to hire.

Ottawa rolled out temporary measures in April 2022 allowing employers in the accommodation and food service sectors, among others facing labour shortages, to hire up to 30 per cent of their workforce through the Temporary Foreign Worker program for low-wage positions.

Boissonnault said the cap will be cut to 20 per cent for most sectors.

There will also be more stringent requirements for employers to prove they can't find local help.

'This is a very important sector'

Foreign workers make up 35 to 40 per cent of staffing at P.E.I. seafood processing plants, according to the province's Seafood Processors Association.

Executive director Bob Creed said it's not clear if or how the new rules will affect those plants.

"Quite frankly, without the temporary foreign worker program it would be very difficult for seafood processing in P.E.I. to continue," he said.

"We will be concerned if we can't access the required labour to support our fish harvesters, our aquaculture sectors, our mussel farms. This is a very important sector to rural P.E.I. [and] to the entire economy."

We've got a lot of food industry jobs, we've got a lot of frontline workers in retail, and those people are very, very impacted by these changes provincially. Kelly Hamilton, Confederation Capital

This week's announcement follows other recent federal changes aimed at slowing population growth across the country.

There are new federal restrictions aimed at limiting the number of international students who come into the country.

The P.E.I. government plans to whittle down its nominees for permanent residency and focus on recruiting foreign workers to a few key sectors, including health care and construction.

Kelly Hamilton, a recruiter and immigration consultant with Confederation Capital, said all of those changes will make it tough for industries like food service and retail to find enough staff.

"Employers are panicking because, with P.E.I. specifically, we know they're focusing on certain sectors that are in demand, and they are genuinely in demand construction, manufacturing, production, health care, education. But we are a labour force that is built very much on sales and service," she said.

"We've got a lot of food industry jobs, we've got a lot of frontline workers in retail, and those people are very, very impacted by these changes provincially. If that avenue to secure a permanent placement in Canada as a resident disappears, they're going to disappear from our workforce."

Headlines

FISH HARVESTERS HELP INJURED HARVESTER: Fish harvesters across the province came together to help Richard Martin, injured harvester at the confederation building last week.

VOCM - St. John's - 7am News @ 07:07:26am Duration: 00:00:29 Reporter:

Ref Id: x3c-3y4-27

FFAW REPS WALK OUT OF CAPELIN ADVISORY MEETING: Two groups that have been calling for a stop to a capelin fishery have been called extremist organizations by the FFAW and the union reps walked out of an advisory meeting to protest those groups designation. ["Jack Daly", Oceana Canada]

CBN - St. John's - 6am News @ 06:03:19am Duration: 00:01:08 Reporter:

Ref Id: k3M-8c9-27

WILDFIRE SEASON LOOMING: Another tough wildfire season is looming in Canada. Provinces are trying to ramp up their fire fighting capabilities. ["Chief Boissonneault", Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs]

CBY - Corner Brook - NL Morning @ 08:41:08am Duration: 00:08:56 Reporter:

Ref Id: d7X-7w4-27

INCREASE IN SNOW CRAB TAC: The total allowable catch for snow crab is up for this season. ["Jeff Loder", Association of Seafood Producers"; "John Efford", Harvester]

CBN - St. John's - Fisheries Broadcast @ 06:10:13pm Duration: 00:17:43 Reporter: Patrick Butler

Ref Id: r6k-8X5-25

ICE BREAKING OPERATIONS: An ice breaker will be conducting ice breaking operations on the Northern Peninsula.

CJON (NTV) - Evening Newshour Early Edition @ 05:47:00pm Duration: 00:00:30 Reporter: Jodi Cooke

Ref Id: G4t-2J3-25

MILK PRODUCTION RESUMED AT CENTRAL DAIRIES: Milk production has resumed at Central Dairies and a sale is being finalized with the NL Dairy Cooperative. ["Crosbie Williams", Pondview Farms Owner; "Guillaume Berube", Agropur]

CBNT (CBC TV) - Here & Now @ 06:05:15pm Duration: 00:01:00 Reporter: Elizabeth Whitten

Ref Id: w4F-3P5-25

REACTION TO OUTSIDE BUYERS IN THE FISHERY: The spokesperson for the fish processing companies says it won't be easy for outside buyers to purchase fish and "Jeff Loder" of Association for Seafood Producers says buyers will have a lot to do first.

CBN - St. John's - 6am News @ 06:02:07am Duration: 00:01:19 Reporter:

Ref Id: d2z-2Q6-26

EFFORD TALKS ABOUT OUTSIDE BUYERS: A spokesperson for fishermen who demanded changes during protests last week says outside buyers know what they are facing when they come to NL to buy catches. ["John Efford"]

CBN - St. John's - 9am News @ 09:04:28am Duration: 00:00:50 Reporter:

Ref Id: y7q-2T5-26

CRAB FISHERY DELAYED BY A WEEK: The FFAW was set to hold another protest today at the DFO office in White Hills in St. John's. Fishermen were demanding they delay the crab fishery by a week and now it will not open until April 6th.

CBN - St. John's - 9am News @ 09:05:18am Duration: 00:00:27 Reporter:

Ref Id: C9z-4J6-26

UPDATE ON POLAR BEAR HUNT: The polar bear hunting season continues for Inuit on the North Coast of Labrador. ["Jim Goudie", Deputy Minister of Lands for the Nunatsiavut Government]

CFGB - Goose Bay - Labrador Morning Show @ 06:47:59am Duration: 00:08:54 Reporter: Heidi Atter

Ref Id: v9d-3W8-26

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Sent: [Wednesday, March 27, 2024 4:06 PM](#)
To: [Loveless, Elvis, Chippett, Jamie, Baldwin, Paul, Hanlon, Bren M., Shea, Erin](#)
Subject: [MORE MEDIA - March 27, 2024](#)

CBC

Northern cod remains in cautious zone, DFO says growth has stalled

FFAW critical of methodology, says early assessment less reliable

CBC News 7 Posted: Mar 27, 2024 10:44 AM NDT | Last Updated: 1 hour ago

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/newfoundland-labrador/northern-cod-stock-assessment-1.7156719>

FFAW Website

NOTICE TO FISH HARVESTERS - SEAL FISHERY RE-OPENING - APRIL 8, 2024 - NF.24.050

March 27, 2024

FISHERIES AND OCEANS CANADA

Seal Fishery Re-Opening April 8, 2024

DFO advises Newfoundland and Labrador Seal harvesters that the Commercial and Personal Use Seal fishery will re-open in Sealing Areas 4 to 23 and Sealing Areas 25 to 27 at 0600 hours on April 8, 2024.

Commercial Seal harvesters based in the Front have access to the Gulf and commercial Seal harvesters based in the Gulf have access to the Front.

Commercial Seal harvesters are advised to check with their buyers to confirm a market for their Seals before going Sealing.

Seal harvesters are reminded that licences and licence conditions are available through DFO's National Online Licencing System.

Additionally, all Commercial and Personal Use Sealers are reminded that landings must be hailed in daily, as per licence conditions.

The Regional Director General, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Newfoundland and Labrador Region gives notice that Variation Order 2024-008 has been revoked and Variation Order 2024-013 is in effect as of March 28, 2024.

Notices to Fish Harvesters for all commercial fisheries are now available online under the Fishery Notices link on the DFO NL Region webpage at <https://www.nfl.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/en>

If you would like to have all Notices to Fish Harvesters for commercial fisheries sent directly to you by email please contact: miranda.pryor@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

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