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**KEITH SULLIVAN**  
President

**DAVID DECKER**  
Secretary-Treasurer

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August 24, 2018

Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson  
Minister  
Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
200 Kent Street, Ottawa, ON K1A 0E6

Dear Minister Wilkinson:

I am writing to you today to request that the Department of Fisheries and Oceans allow the northern cod management plan to be maintained throughout the remainder of the fishing season in its entirety.

As you know, members of FFAW-Unifor are two weeks into the 2018 northern cod fishery. The marine environment is showing significant volumes of several species including northern cod, capelin and squid that is vastly different than the scientific predictions. From Labrador to the Avalon, harvesters are reporting an abundance of cod not seen in decades.

We respectfully remind you that the most recent stock assessment showed that the modest stewardship fishery had no impact on the trajectory of the stock, yet the Department has set the quota at 9500 tons, a dramatic reduction of 25% from last year's fishery.

Maintaining the full number of weeks and weekly limits will still preserve an ultraconservative harvest rate of less than 3%. By comparison, Iceland, world renowned for a healthy cod fishery, has a spawning stock biomass (SSB) for cod that is just over double that of the 2JK3L fishing area, yet the harvest rate in relation to the SSB is 26% - over 27 times that of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Based on landings to date, we are projecting a higher overall catch than originally anticipated due to the broad scale abundance of cod this year. The anticipated catch will still be less than the 2017 season, as the drastically decreased fishing time has had an impact. This decision must take into consideration the livelihoods of fish harvesters, plant workers and our coastal communities.

In light of this, we therefore request that the Department allow the cod management plan to continue with the maximum allotted number of weeks and maintain weekly trip limits.

Your timely response to this matter is appreciated.

Yours truly,



Keith Sullivan  
President, FFAW-Unifor

Cc: Jacqueline Perry, Acting Regional Director General, NL Region  
Bob Lambert, Director, Oceans Management

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