
KEITH SULLIVAN
President

DAVID DECKER
Secretary-Treasurer

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

August 30, 2018

Dear Minister Wilkinson,

FFAW-Unifor requests an urgent meeting to discuss a decision to provide sea cucumber allocation to companies – namely a partnership between Fogo Island Co-op and Miawpukek First Nation of Conne River.

Our Union is urgently requesting that you reconsider this decision, which is a blatant disregard for the owner-operator and fleet separation policies. By providing a special allocation to companies, your Government is knowingly contradicting these policies that are integral to protecting the inshore fishery.

New amendments brought into the Fisheries Act by the Trudeau Government aim to protect the independence of inshore fishery license holders. If the amendments are adopted as proposed, the new Fisheries Act will allow the Minister to make fisheries decisions with a consideration for the “preservation or promotion of the independence of license holders in commercial inshore fisheries.” This is precisely why we are asking that you reconsider this decision and promote and protect the adjacent inshore fleet in 3Ps.

Fish harvesters in 3Ps are facing economic conditions that rival the cod moratorium. In fact, it would be fair to say the situation is even worse due to the amount of investment and debt in the fishery in this region of Newfoundland and Labrador. The decline of a large variety of commercially valuable fish resources has been highlighted by FFAW-Unifor to your Department on numerous occasions. Newly available sea cucumber permits are providing harvesters in the area with a small opportunity for economic relief in the midst of a crisis, yet taking 1000 tons of that resource out of the hands who need it most is unacceptable.

We look forward to meeting with you soon.

Yours truly,



Keith Sullivan
President, FFAW-Unifor