

FISHING UPDATE

PRIORITIES FOR 2023



GREG PRETTY ELECTED PRESIDENT

On January 5, 2023, FFAW-Unifor's Joint Council elected Greg Pretty as President of the largest private sector trade union in Newfoundland and Labrador. Pretty brings nearly 40 years of experience in labour management and organizing, having started his career with the union in the early 80's under Richard Cashin.

Since 2003, Pretty has served as the Director of the Industrial/Retail/Offshore Sector. He has negotiated over 100 collective agreements over his career and has extensive experience with both the inshore and industrial/retail/offshore sectors of the FFAW.

"Being President of this union is a 24/7, 365 job that requires a demonstrated commitment to building solidarity among all sectors of our 14,000 strong Union. Proven experience in negotiations, arbitrations and in dealing with the many levels of bureaucracy, legislation and policy are non-negotiable credentials to ensure stability and strength into the future. I bring all of this to the table in addition to my lifelong, demonstrated commitment to improving the lives of working people in Newfoundland and Labrador," says newly installed President Greg Pretty.

Career highlights include:

- Coordinated the Over the Side Sales campaign (1983)
- Advisory Board Member of MUN's Marine Institute (2006)
- Labour Co-Chair of the National Seafood Sector Council (2007)
- Board Member of Canadian Marine Advisory Committee (2000)
- Board Member of Labour Standards Committee NL (2000)
- Board Member of Metro Business Opportunities (1995-Present)
- Co-Chair of NL's Labour Arbitration Committee (2008-2016)
- Two terms as Vice-President of NL Federation of Labour (2004-2010)
- Current Board Member of Workplace NL. Chair of Client Service Committee, member on the Finance Committee and member of the Sub-Investment Committee
- Prior to taking on IRO Director role in 2003, serviced the inshore sector in 4R, 3Pn, 3Ps and 3K, as well as served on negotiating teams for groundfish, pelagics, shrimp and crab.

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



GREG PRETTY

January 5th, 2023, I joined a very select group of our own, historically renowned Union leaders, Richard Cashin, Earle McCurdy and Keith Sullivan, as the fourth President of the FFAW.

Just as I was about to be sworn-in in front of Executive Board members and the Industrial and Inshore Councils, the door of the room swung open and our First President, Richard Cashin entered the room to thunderous applause and a standing ovation. Talk about emotion!

Without Richard, of course, none of us would have been in that room that day.

As I stood at the podium, I thought about how Richard put the lives of everyone in the room in motion with the truly revolutionary idea he brought to fruition over 50 years ago. With workers united, he went toe-to-toe against the greed and the avarice of Fish Merchants - and won.

He gave fishers and plant workers a voice on working conditions and prices, and he changed this province in so many ways.

He drop-kicked a retrogressive 1970's NL economy into the twentieth century. With first ever negotiated prices for fish and plant wages, rural communities took on a strong, new vibrancy. Better boats and better wages created strong rural community economies. The creation of the Labrador Fishermen's Union Shrimp Company, Loan Boards, Workers Compensation all enhanced the lives of workers. He created our one true Renaissance Period.

Yes, my friends, she was the best of times coming out of the worst of times. By the 80's people came to know there wasn't much "good" in

the good old days, nothing but hard work and a lot poverty.

Richard Cashin's vision for NL changed all of that. He was a one-man wonder of rural development.

Richard knows very well how precarious Unions like ours are. He knows the same greed that kept us subservient for generations lurks just around the corner. Those who would destroy it still walk amongst us.

They too have changed with the times. They portray themselves as philanthropists and impresarios but there's the same anti-union, anti-worker crew of Fish Merchants. They continue, fighting and scratching behind the scenes, for control of the whole ocean and everything in it. They dream of their "good" old days, pre-FFAW, when they paid pennies for fish and less for labour.

"Oh, to return to the good old days!" they mutter in their sleep. Richard's message for rural Newfoundland and Labrador is the same as it was then. There comes a time when one has to take a stand and fight back against those who lobby to economically punish you and your communities.

We must also remain vigilant against those who have been co-opted by processors and promised a lion's share of your resources in return for their anti-union allegiance.

Yes, it was an incredible feeling as I was sworn in as President of the FFAW. I am energized by our elected leadership and our staff. I am looking forward to meeting new members and reconnecting with old friends across this great sea of strong, stalwart FFAW members.

You can be assured we'll take your issues and concerns to all levels of the Provincial and Federal governments.

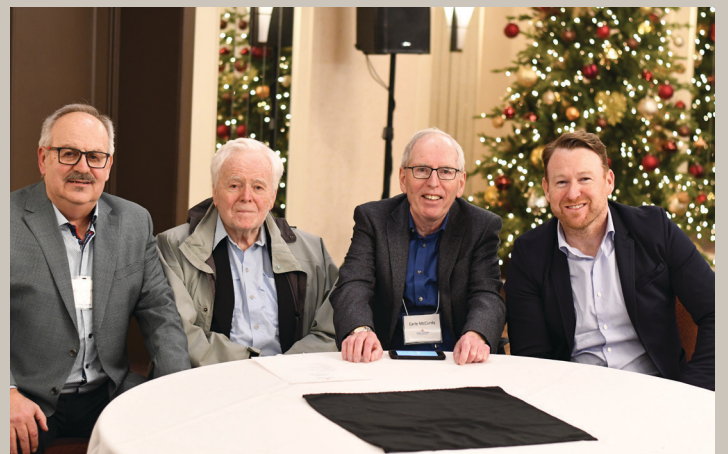
There is much to be done. Let's get at it.

Together!

CASHIN ENDORSES GREG PRETTY

Richard Cashin made a rare public appearance on January 5, attending the Joint Council election as a special guest in support of candidate Greg Pretty, whom Cashin worked with in the 80s.

Pictured are all four current and past presidents of FFAW-Unifor: Greg Pretty, Richard Cashin, Earle McCurdy and Keith Sullivan.



MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY-TREASURER



JASON SPINGLE

2023 has kicked off fast and furious here at the FFAW. We have a number of high priority files being worked on this spring, and we're wasting no time in beginning our consultations with members through our regional fleet meetings. Some meetings will have already taken place at the time this goes to print, and many more will be held over the coming weeks.

One of our key files is ironing out issues with the fish price setting process, which we go into more detail later in this update.

January, February and March are always busy months with science – as we bring harvester contributions to the assessment table on commercial stocks like capelin, cod, mackerel, shrimp and snow crab. The FFAW's in-house science team manages or contributes to dozens of projects with the aim of increasing value and sustainability for inshore fish harvesters. Your contributions are a critical component to DFO's science assessment and management processes, and the FFAW fights to ensure they are heard and valued.

Reopening the mackerel fishery, expanding on opportunities with northern cod and protecting the resource in the gulf (4R3Pn) and in 3Ps are guiding priorities this spring.

We're also working with the Association of Seafood Producers (ASP) to prevent a repeat of the 2022 fishing season. Last year's snow crab fishery was fraught with conflicts over trip limits, scheduling and posted prices. Companies must be held accountable in following the collective agreement, in negotiating in good faith, and in treating harvesters fairly which will all contribute to a more orderly fishery this year.

On another note, DFO has delayed the implementation of whale safe gear by one year, but our union will continue emphasizing the risks and costs associated with weak-rope and rope on-demand systems. We strongly believe that part of the solution to marine mammal protection is in more monitoring and notifications rather than in costly gear replacement that would increase ghost gear and ghost entanglements. In saying this, getting more work done on modified gears so we have evidence is an important consideration. We are committed to collaborating with stakeholders to develop appropriate strategies for fish management and avoid whale entanglements.

To address the aging workforce in fishing, we're awaiting government funding approval on a much-needed program that would assist with the demographic challenge and shortage inshore crews will soon be facing. Attracting and retaining young people into the fishery has unique challenges and requires unique solutions, and the FFAW is focused on protecting the inshore fishery for generations to come.

To that end, we'll continue keeping your issues on the minds of people who influence change. Federal and provincial politicians, scientists and policy makers will know the value and importance of our inshore fishery. Also, please make every effort to attend a regional meeting held in your area, to connect directly and contribute. I look forward to a productive year working on behalf of all professional fish harvesters in Newfoundland and Labrador.

WOMEN'S UPDATE

Since the creation of our stand-alone Women's Committee, members have been hard at work in their communities and workplaces. On December 6th the Women's Committee released a statement commemorating the tragedy at Ecole Polytechnique and reaffirming the Union's commitment to ending violence against women. In addition, the Committee sent a letter to the NL-FHSA advocating for increased access to PLBs (Personal Locator Beacons) as many barriers remain for many crew members who are dependent upon enterprise-owners to access the device. It is important that crew gain the independence to access these life-saving devices by also being offered subsidies and financial avenues for easier purchase.

Stay tuned for more from the Women's Committee in the coming months as plans come together for International Women's Day on March 8th and training opportunities.

If you are interested in becoming involved in the Women's Committee or are looking to start a committee at your own workplace, please reach out to your sector area:

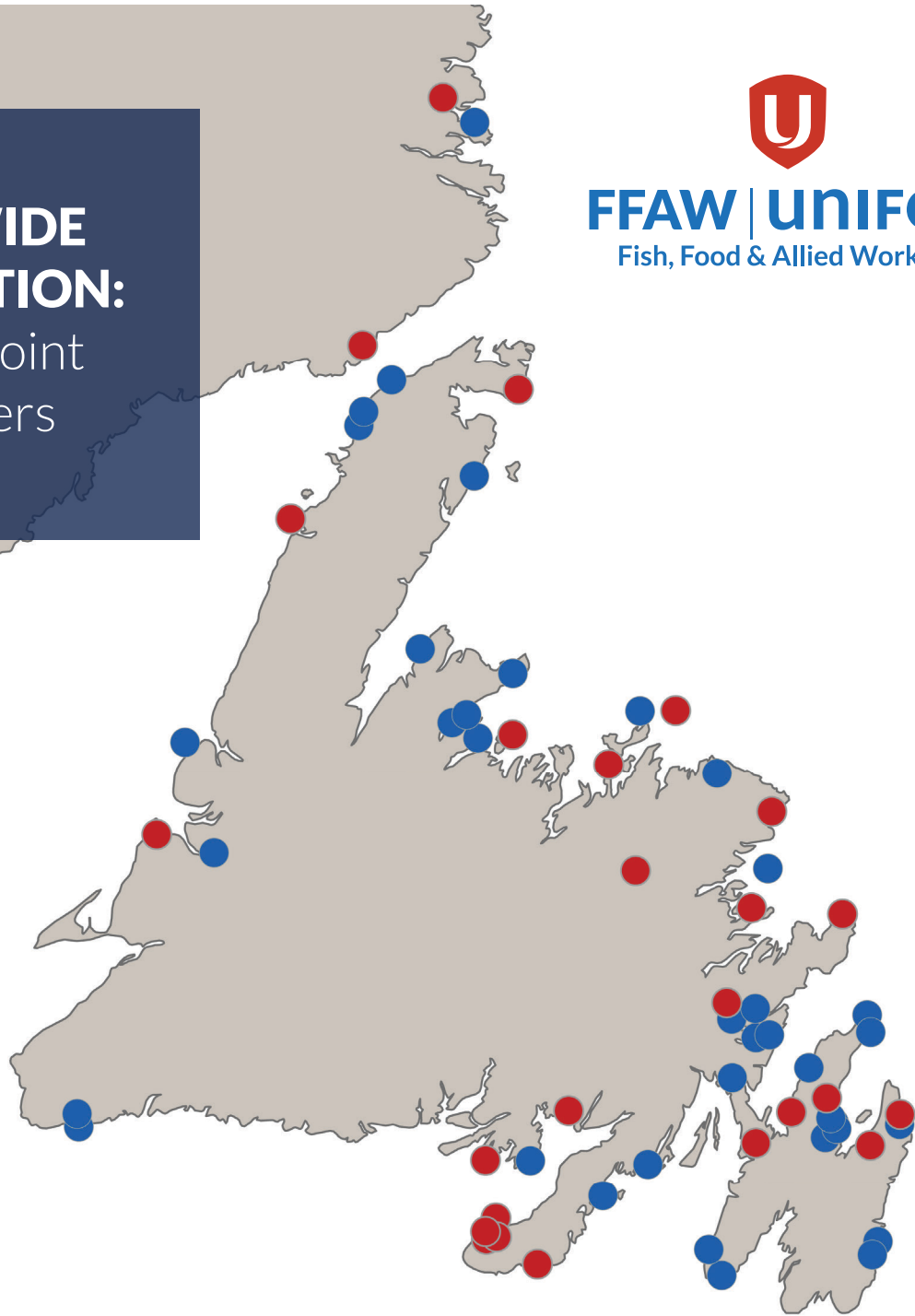
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FFAW | UNIFOR
Fish, Food & Allied Workers

PROVINCE-WIDE REPRESENTATION: FFAW-Unifor Joint Council Members



- IRO
- Inshore

FFAW-Unifor is led by the 16-member Executive Board and two sector specific councils - the Inshore Council and the Industrial/Retail/Offshore (IRO) Council. Full listings of these elected representatives can be found in the latest issue of the Union Forum as well as on our website, www.ffaw.ca.

The next Executive Board election takes place in 2024, and the next Constitutional Convention will be held the same year.



CAMPAIGN TO REOPEN THE ATLANTIC MACKEREL FISHERY

Minister Joyce Murray closed the Atlantic Mackerel fishery in 2022 - so why are we seeing more mackerel than ever before? Science is getting it wrong and the fishery must be reopened.

FFAW-Unifor is continuing to lobby the federal government to admit to their error and reopen the Atlantic Mackerel fishery.

- DFO Science says that the Atlantic Mackerel stock has been in decline for the last several years.
- That is because DFO Science says that mackerel only spawn in one area. We know they are wrong.

FFAW-Unifor has spearheaded efforts to bring harvesters' observations to DFO. This includes pencil mackerel sampling, repeated requests to DFO for additional science work in the region, and the extensive documentation of sonar and sounder images, observation reports, photos and videos and more.

"We've been fishing mackerel for decades and it's one thing to close a fishery down when it's doing poorly, as was the case with the northern cod moratorium in 1992, but with mackerel it just doesn't add up," said 3K harvester Trevor Jones, who has been a vocal advocate for incorporating harvester knowledge in DFO science.

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH. DFO must admit their failure and acknowledge that mackerel are spawning in other areas. The mackerel stock is healthier than it has ever been - it's time to face the mounting evidence and reopen the fishery.

Instead of facing the ever-building evidence that the mackerel stock is being underestimated, DFO Science is trying to double down on their single-location spawning argument. But the facts doesn't match up.

A decade of pencil mackerel in increasing quantities and distributions. Reports of abundant mackerel schools throughout July, August, September, October and November. Reports of mackerel in all year classes still around in January. These observations do not line up with what DFO Science says.

Minister Joyce Murray made the wrong call in 2022 and the FFAW will do whatever necessary to get the fishery reopened in 2023.



SNOW CRAB SCIENCE UPDATE

from Dr. Erin Carruthers, FFAW-Unifor Fisheries Scientist

Crab fleet chairs and FFAW staff logged over 500 hours of online Precautionary Approach (PA) Working Group meetings in 2022. As a result of this collaborative effort by DFO, fleet chairs, FFAW and other stakeholders, the PA for snow crab is much improved. The PA is based on three metrics: (1) predicted CPUE, (2) predicted discards, and (3) egg clutch fullness index.

Improvements to the proposed PA include recognizing the importance of the catch rate metric in assessing stock status; predicted catch rates are weighted more heavily than the predicted discards and egg clutch metrics. Predicted catch rates greater than 9kg/pot are considered healthy.

The snow crab PA does not prescribe a specific exploitation rate but rather sets an upper limit on the exploitation rates based on whether the stock is considered to be in the Healthy, Cautious or Critical Zone. This flexibility allows for discussion between crab fleet committees and DFO Fisheries Management at advisory meetings.

For NL snow crab, management occurs on a CMA level but the PA - and stock assessment - is based on the larger assessment divisions. This PA recognizes that trends and status at the CMA level may differ within an assessment division. Importantly, it also references that separating 3L inshore from 3LNO should not limit exploitation rates in 3L inshore, should that stock remain in the Healthy Zone.

Finally, there is a commitment that crab harvesters, the FFAW, DFO, and other stakeholders will review the PA within 2-3 years of implementation. The Snow Crab PA Working Group has concluded our work and DFO will be submitting the proposed PA to the federal Fisheries Minister. The PA will be discussed at upcoming assessment and advisory meetings.



SEAL OVERPOPULATION

Natural mortality continues to be the biggest risk to the recovery and continued growth of important commercial species such as cod, capelin and snow crab. Harvesters believe that natural mortality can in large part be attributed to seal overpopulation and the enormous quantities of prey these mammals consume.

FFAW-Unifor has been calling on the federal government to take action on seal overpopulation for many years, including executing a Canada-wide video & petition campaign last year.

Finally, the federal government hosted a Seal Summit in November to bring industry, Indigenous and government professionals together in one room to discuss the challenge and, most importantly, bring solutions to the problem.

The government must first acknowledge the issue, then bring real solutions that would fundamentally address the ecosystem imbalance.

FFAW SCIENCE PROPOSAL

At the 2022 Seal Summit, federal Fisheries Minister, Joyce Murray, announced funding to support projects that will “increase understanding of seals in the ecosystem.” The FFAW submitted a proposal to document fish harvesters’ observations of seal distribution, abundance and seasonality.

This project has two focus areas: the south coast (3Pn and southern 3L) and southern Labrador (2J). The project would complement similar work being done in 4R and 3Pn. Fish harvesters would record their effort and observations in a seal logbook.

Additionally, FFAW staff would conduct career history interviews with fish harvesters to describe changes in seal abundance, distribution and seasonality. If the funding proposal is successful, this project will support a crucial next step in understanding seal impacts on fished environments.

We need to know where, when, and how many seals are in an area to understand impacts. Funding decisions are expected in April.



ELECTIONS PROCESS AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE DECISION

Q: Why wasn't the entire membership allowed to vote?

A: Keith Sullivan resigned in the middle of an election term, and therefore a mid-term election with the Union's Joint Council was held per the terms of our Constitution. Over 60 elected individuals representing all sectors and regions within the Union voted during the mid-term election.

The next general election will take place in 2024, at which time the entire membership will be given the opportunity to vote if a position is contested. This is different from most unions, which give voting privileges to Convention delegates only.

Q: Why did the Elections Committee deem one candidate ineligible?

A: The arms-length Elections Committee made the decision to eliminate a candidate because that candidate was determined to be an active member of an organization that seeks or sought to represent members of FFAW-Unifor. The organization was still registered as operating, and the candidate was still listed as a director on the government registry.

Per the legal definition, the candidate did not meet the requirements per the FFAW's Constitution.

Q: Why was the candidate deemed ineligible?

A: FFAW-Unifor members voted in 2018 to unanimously accept eligibility requirements into the Union's Constitution with the intention of protecting the institution from individuals who seek to destroy it. The Affidavit is the result of these protections, and the Committee can only interpret what exists within the Constitution. Members had the opportunity, but did not, bring forward changes to these eligibility requirements at the 2021 Convention.

Q: Why couldn't the Elections Committee have let him run or made an exception?

A: The Elections Committee is tasked with following the Union's Constitution. They do not have the mandate to make judgement calls or exceptions outside of what is explicitly in the Constitution.

Q: Why did the Executive Board endorse Greg Pretty?

A: The Executive Board is comprised of 16 elected individuals representing both sectors of the Union. Keith Sullivan's resignation came as a surprise to the Board and, in the interest of maintaining stability as we embark on the 2023 fishing season, the Board determined Pretty to be the most suitable replacement. Given Pretty's record as one of the most experienced negotiators in the province and his willingness to run for the position, the Board's endorsement was a sign of continuity and stability for the FFAW. The Elections Committee has no part in this endorsement.

The next general election will be held in 2024, and should the position be contested at that time, the entire membership will be eligible to vote.

COD

SCIENCE UPDATE

2J3KL

The northern cod spawning stock biomass (SSB) has increased from an estimated 9,000 t in 1995 to well over 400,000t in the past few years. SSB increased from comparable levels (250,000 to 475,000) in the late 1970s, during a period of excessive fishing pressure. Nonetheless, DFO still considers northern cod to be in the critical zone. FFAW is advocating for a full assessment in 2023 and a review of the Limit Reference Point for this stock.

3Ps

The federal Fisheries Minister committed to having a rebuilding plan in place for 3Ps cod prior to the 2023 fishing season. Inshore harvesters and FFAW staff have been active in the rebuilding plan working group, highlighting that fishing mortality is not driving the trajectory of the stock. The SSB for the stock is considered to be at approximately 48% of the Limit Reference Point (68 kt). Nonetheless, harvesters in Placentia Bay are reporting high catch rates. FFAW is advocating for increased research on seal impacts, recruitment, and updated tagging results.

4RS3Pn Gulf Cod

Northern Gulf cod will be assessed at the end of February 2023. The last full assessment for Northern Gulf cod was in 2019, when the stock was determined to be at 10 % of the Limit Reference Point for this stock. In July of 2022, DFO closed the directed commercial fishery for Atlantic cod in 4RS and 3Pn, with the commitment that the status of the stock would be assessed prior to the 2023-2024 fishing season.



SPRING 2023

SCIENCE MEETINGS

FFAW-Unifor's robust Science Department ensures harvester presence and contribution to all major commercial species.

JANUARY

Working Group for 3Ps Cod
Lobster Science Symposium

FEBRUARY

4RST Turbot Assessment
Estuary & Northern Gulf Snow Crab
4RST Atlantic Halibut Assessment
Atlantic Mackerel Assessment
NL Snow Crab Assessment
3Pn 4Rs Gulf Cod Assessment

MARCH

2J3KLPs Capelin
4RST Halibut
2J3KL Cod
Sea Cucumber Assessment

APRIL

4RSw Atlantic Herring Framework Assessment



REMEMBERING DWIGHT PETTEN

Dwight L. W. Petten
February 27, 1966 - January 5, 2023

The FFAW community is saddened to hear of the passing of Dwight Petten, of Port de Grave. Petten died at the age of 56 after a brief battle with cancer. A pillar of the Newfoundland and Labrador fishing industry, he would usually be found in his trademark overalls and cap, and will be remembered for his contributions to the FFAW and the industry. Dwight was a family man, proud husband to Cynthia, father to Melanie, Matthew and Melissa, and proud grandfather to Billy, Peyton, Michael, Priya, Alivia, Keeva, Avery, Raeya and Matthew

Dwight was Chair of the 3L Large Supplementary crab fleet for many, many years until his passing, and he served 25 years with the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary. He was an outspoken advocate for the inshore fishery, and has passed on his love of fishing to his children who carry on his legacy.

MAKING IMPROVEMENTS TO THE PRICE SETTING PROCESS

Fishing Industry Collective Bargaining Act (FICBA) Review Process

Mr. Conway's report was received last Fall, and we provided an extensive update in the last Union Forum. Amendments to Sections 19.1 through 19.14 of FICBA were enacted during the Fall 2022 sitting of the House of Assembly, which modified the appointment process and membership of the Standing Fish Price Setting Panel. Work is currently underway to determine if, how and when other recommendations can be implemented.

Second Price Reconsideration

For years, FFAW has requested a second price reconsideration, which would give each party two chances to request a price reconsideration at the Panel should market conditions or information change throughout the season. We expect this to be implemented at the Panel for the 2023 season.

Panel Selection Process

Refining the way Panel members are selected has the potential to improve transparency and confidence in the price setting process.

FFAW will submit the names of the two representatives to serve on the Panel in the capacity of Member and Alternate Member by the end of January.

Transparency

We've long asked for more transparency in the price negotiations process. Aggregated yield information is a mechanism for closer agreements and remains protected under the Fisheries Act. Disclosure of this information to the Panel by a third party would give a true picture of industry value and lead to more informed decisions by the Panel.

Crab Formula and Other Recommendations by Conway

One of Mr. Conway's recommendations was for the development of a crab price formula that would provide for more stability in the snow crab season. This is not a new idea and something that has been raised before. We have begun early discussions with ASP on how this would look and whether it will be possible to have it in place this year.

Improved Negotiations

With Derek Butler's departure from ASP, and changes at the FFAW's helm, we have confidence that 2023 will reset negotiations for our two parties and lead to more constructive relations this season. If there's one thing both ASP and FFAW members agree on, it's that we cannot have a repeat of the 2022 fishing season.

Energy Industry Update

from Katie Power, FFAW-Unifor Energy Industry Liaison

Since starting in November, I feel much more settled into my role at FFAW. I've been enjoying the transition and I'm comfortable with the progress we've made so far. In saying that, we can expect substantial ocean activity in the coming year. Whether that be from oil and gas operators, seismic vessels, research initiatives, or otherwise, there will be plenty to prepare for and plan around.

I've been involved in consultations with the Environmental Studies Research Fund (ESRF) and their work on the impacts of seismic on groundfish. The next steps for this project are still under review. I will continue to participate in engagement sessions for onshore and offshore wind energy developments. While these projects are both in the early, preliminary stages, there will be some direct and/or cumulative effects for our members and I want to ensure I can communicate timely, meaningful feedback as these plans progress. Soon, I will be attending a workshop on relationships between vessel activities and their impacts (positive or negative) on the ecosystem services in Placentia Bay.

Preparations are underway for our Fisheries Liaison Program and Fisheries Guide Vessel Program. I will be coordinating the appropriate training for our Fisheries Liaison Officers (FLOs) to ensure we are fully equipped on our end to tackle a potential seismic survey season, in addition to extensive offshore drilling activity and upcoming rig moves.

Recently, I was given the opportunity to address oil and gas operators and regulators directly at the One Ocean Annual Meeting. I emphasized that there is an expectation at FFAW-Unifor for transparent and proactive communication amongst our industries.

I appreciate the warm welcome from everyone and look forward to the engagement opportunities to come! Please reach out at kpouer@ffaw.ca if you have any questions or concerns.

FFAW MEMBER LIFE INSURANCE POLICY

If you are a paid-up, card carrying FFAW-Unifor member under the age of 70, you are part of the Union's **Life Insurance Policy**.

As of May 2013, life insurance for FFAW-Unifor members has increased from \$10,000 to **\$15,000**. If your death is accidental, your family will receive **\$30,000**. Your family will receive a tax-free, cash benefit through this insurance policy.

Your union card is proof of your insurance.

Your insurance coverage is only valid until July 31, 2023. After this date, if you have not paid your dues for the upcoming year you are not covered.

In total, over half a million dollars was paid to members' families in 2022 alone, and nearly \$5 million has been paid to members' families since 2015. This is an important benefit of being a FFAW-Unifor member - ensure your beneficiary form is up-to-date. Call us today at 576-7276 if you have questions.

JOIN THE FFAW'S FACEBOOK BUY/SELL GROUP

FFAW-Unifor is now offering a Classifieds service to members and relevant industry professionals! Join the Facebook group to list any items or services you have for sale, or that you are in search of.

The next Union Forum will feature a new Classifieds section and all FFAW members will be eligible for one free listing per calendar year. More details coming soon!

HELPING YOUNG HARVESTERS WITH THE NEW ENTRANTS PROGRAM

The Fish, Food, and Allied Workers Union (FFAW-Unifor), Professional Fish Harvester Certification Board (PFHCB), and NL Fish Harvester Safety Association (NL-FHSA), are proposing a multi-stakeholder approach for recruitment and retention of new entrants to the fishing industry through the provincial government Labour Market Partnerships Program.

Pending approval, the Program will build and launch a dedicated recruitment program similar to established post-secondary institutions but will be focused on the professionalisation pathway for the commercial fishery.

Our fishery is prosperous and full of opportunities and is one of the few industries that secure a high quality of life in rural NL. Our fishery is also a significant contributor to other provincial sectors like tourism - continuing to inspire small and large business spin-offs and maintaining NL's appeal as a uniquely exciting and historic place to experience.

There is also the significance of continued ocean science stewardship with recruitment to the industry. Fisheries science is an applied science; having fish harvesters and their knowledge at the assessment and management tables means harvesters can ground-truth the assumptions needed to build stock assessment models, which is critical to sustainability of the resource. Succession planning for new entrants to the industry is also an effort towards the continuity of cohesive fisheries management.

Unlike other industries that can avail of temporary foreign workers and immigration programming to scale-up and maintain a workforce, seasonal jobs in the commercial inshore fishery are not eligible for immigration pathways as both provincial and federal immigration programs require full-time, year-round employment.

This New Entrants Program proposal will deliver on strategic activities over a 26-month time frame to address labour supply challenges in collaboration among the FFAW, PFHCB, NL-FHSA, training institutions, enterprise owners, and young/new harvesters. This Program also aims to address demographic challenges in an aging workforce - succession planning and training for young people to enter the industry is required.



MEMBER REPRESENTATIVES

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GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

FEDERAL

KEY DEPARTMENTS:

Fisheries & Oceans - Minister Joyce Murray
Rural Economic Development - Minister Gudie Hutchings
Labour - Minister Seamus O'Regan

Early 2023 Priorities for the Departments of Fisheries and Oceans, Rural Economic Development, and Labour:

- Pushing back on 30-Day Vessel Registration Policy
- Securing significant allocation of emerging Unit 1 commercial redfish fishery for NL inshore
- Fighting for regional considerations in Canada's implementation of the MMPA and finding whalesafe gear alternatives comparable to weak-rope
- Lifting the moratoria on commercial mackerel and addressing unfair stock management plans by DFO
- Ensuring that harvesters impacted by Hurricane Fiona receive support for lost income in 2023 due to gear inventory claims and unrepaired infrastructure
- Advocating for a moderate increase in the TAC for northern cod
- Confronting the influence of conservationist groups on fishery management decisions, particularly factual issues with groups such as Oceana
- Project proposal submission for government's Ecosystems and Oceans Science Contribution Framework to establish up-to-date data on seal diet and prey behaviour.



PROVINCIAL

KEY DEPARTMENTS:

Fisheries, Food and Agriculture - Minister Derek Bragg
Labour - Minister Bernard Davis
Immigration, Population Growth and Skills - Minister Gerry Byrne

Early 2023 Priorities for the Department of Fisheries, Forestry, and Agriculture, Labour, and Immigration, Population Growth and Skills:

- Establish FFAW's recommendations for procedural standards to promote fairness together with Amendments to Sections 19.1 through 19.14 of the Fishing Industry Collective Bargaining Act (FICBA) in advance of the 2023 fishing season
- Labour Market Partnerships proposal submission to launch a recruitment program for new entrants to the NL commercial fishery
- Loss recovery for harvesters impacted by Hurricane Fiona
- Pushing back on corporate concentration and foreign control in the fish processing sector to eliminate barriers to capacity, competition, fair fish prices, and opportunities
- Lobbying for increased support from provincial government for federal priorities.

STAY INFORMED

Ensure you are up-to-date on the latest happenings in the fishing industry.

EMAIL LIST

Important FFAW communications are sent out through our email database. If you do not receive these emails, please contact your staff rep or call 576-7276 and ensure your information is up-to-date.

MEETING NOTICES

Meeting notices are communicated as far in advance as possible. These notices are posted on our website under Membership Meetings page, on Facebook, and when possible are emailed.

FACEBOOK PAGE

Follow our Facebook Page (search FFAW Unifor) and ensure you “Like” and “Follow” to receive the latest updates from media releases to member notices, meeting information, and more.

WEBSITE

www.ffaw.ca

Media releases, member updates, meeting information, fish prices, staff and leadership information, scholarship forms, EI information, and more can be found by visiting our website. We’re also working on launching a new more mobile-friendly website later this year including an app that would provide instant notifications for important updates. Stay tuned!

DFO NOTICES TO FISH HARVESTERS

Receive all DFO Notices to Fish Harvesters directly to your email inbox as they’re released. All harvesters are invited to email Beverly.Piccott@dfo-mpo.gc.ca and request to be added to the list.

SEA CUCUMBER

DFO has informed FFAW that the planned fall survey of sea cucumber in both the eastern and western beds was completed. An assessment and advisory will take place this winter and a decision will be made on temporary permits and status moving forward.

Cucumber license/permit holders will also notice their license/permit is not yet available on NOLS. DFO has confirmed these will be rolled out in a timely fashion before the traditional start date of the fishery on June 1st.



UNIT 1 REDFISH & NORTHERN SHRIMP

FFAW-Unifor continues to make the transition of the 4R northern shrimp fleet a priority in 2023. The Gulf Shrimp Coalition met with Minister Joyce Murray in January, where FFAW President Greg Pretty spoke to the importance of not waiting on this transition.

The 4R fleet in particular has done the needed groundwork to ensure a minimal bycatch fishery and with a continually declining northern shrimp resource, time is not on our side.

Offshore companies are continuing to lobby for primary access, and the FFAW is focused on protecting this resource for adjacent communities.



The story of Sébastien Rail

-Snow crab and lobster fisherman and JOBEL user

"In the beginning, I was weary of the unknown. The idea of using JOBEL was a big step for me. I was used to checking my grids with the maps and my plotter positions when fishing snow crab and lobster in Anticosti to complete my paper logbooks. Even if it was cumbersome, it was my way to do it and I was well set in my habits. Anyway, eventually I had only one year left before JOBEL became mandatory for lobster. I created my JOBEL account online and played with the free demo modules available. But I was still unsure of myself as it was a new way to do things.

So, I went to the free JOBEL training sessions. It was so helpful. It gave me the confidence that I needed. Today, I will never ever go back to my old ways, and I am well set with JOBEL. What I love the most is that it works even when I am in Anticosti for 10 weeks without network and I can still enter my trips. No more paper maps. Everything is entered and calculated automatically for me. I use it for all my fisheries and looking forward to the upcoming new modules."

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