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GREG PRETTY
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June 20, 2024

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Honourable Prime Minister Trudeau,

Northern cod has a long-standing importance to the Inshore harvesters of Newfoundland and Labrador, and I am writing today to stress that importance. Access and allocation for Northern cod has historically been that the first 115,000MT being allocated to the inshore sector and Indigenous groups. This has also been the documented position of the federal government for decades.

"Who gets first crack at these fish? Here I must say that I have a clear bias for the inshore fisherman. Not because of some romantic regard, not because of his picture on the calendars, but because he cannot travel far after fish, because he depends on fishing for his income, because his community in turn depends on his fishery being protected," said the Honorable Romeo LeBlanc, Liberal Minister of Fisheries and Oceans 1977 in a speech to the Rotary Club of St. John's explaining his decision to ban offshore vessels from outside of the Gulf of St Lawrence from being allowed to fish inside of the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

Prior to the 2015 federal election, FFAW-Unifor submitted a questionnaire to each of the political parties requesting their responses to several questions. The 115,000MT inshore allowance was one of the key questions on the questionnaire. The Liberal Party of Canada reaffirmed their commitment to this allocation. The Party wrote:

"A Trudeau-led Liberal government will re-affirm the federal commitment to allocate the first 115,000MT of Northern cod quota to the inshore harvesters so that, as the resource rebounds, the benefits of a future cod fishery flow to inshore harvesters and coastal communities. The Liberal Party of Canada knows that we must be diligent and ensure that a resource rebound is real and sustainable, but when the stock achieves the proper threshold, we are committed to the policy that the first 115,000MT will go to the inshore fleet. We understand the fundamental importance of the cod fishery to Newfoundland and Labrador, and the importance of this commitment after the devastating effects of the cod collapse, which saw the largest layoffs in Canadian history. We must ensure that the future benefits of the cod fishery

flow to the inshore harvesters and coastal communities, with spinoff benefits throughout the province.”

In July 2016, then-Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Dominic LeBlanc held up the Liberal Party’s commitment. Minister Leblanc ensured the inshore harvesters of Newfoundland and Labrador that the federal Liberal government continue to support ensuring the first 115,000 MT of Northern cod remain for inshore harvesters. This commitment has been re-stated throughout the tenure of the Trudeau government.

Most recently in 2021, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans’ (DFO) reaffirmed the commitment in the Integrated Fisheries Management Plan:

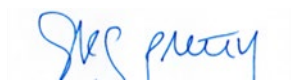
“When a total allowable catch (TAC) for Northern (2J3KL) cod is established, the first 115,000 t of directed Canadian access will be allocated to the inshore sector and Indigenous groups in Newfoundland and Labrador. At a TAC level less than or equal to 115,000 t, directed fishing activity will be limited to inshore harvesters and Indigenous groups in Newfoundland and Labrador.”

Northern cod, fished under the 2J3KL Stewardship Fishery, is a population of the Atlantic cod species that inhabits the waters between the tip of the Grand Banks, in eastern Newfoundland, all the way to Hopedale, Labrador. DFO held the technical briefing for the 2J3KL Northern Cod stock on March 26th, highlighting stability of the stock overall. Changes to the stock assessment model have brought the historic species out of the critical zone, and harvesters are hopeful that will mean corresponding increases to harvest amounts. As it stands, last year’s Maximum Allowable Harvest rollover sustained only a few days’ work for harvesters and plant workers.

It is the Government of Canada’s responsibility to ensure that the inshore owner-operator fleet receives the first 115,000MT of Northern cod. With the rebounding of the stock, we must safeguard the benefits of our adjacent resources for the people of Newfoundland and Labrador, especially fish harvesters and processing plant workers. Keeping the commitment of the first 115,000MT as the stock increases will both protect the stock from unneeded trawling during spawning and pre-spawning periods and will allow our inshore fishery to grow and develop opportunities.

Honourable Prime Minister Trudeau, on behalf of the over 14,000 Newfoundlanders and Labradorians represented by FFAW-Unifor, we remind you of your commitment to protect the first 115,000MT of Northern cod exclusively for inshore and Indigenous groups and implore you to reaffirm this pledge as a strong statement of advocacy for the future of coastal, resource-dependent communities.

Sincerely,



Signed by Greg Pretty (2024/06/20) Verify with verifio.com or Adobe Reader.



Greg Pretty
President, FFAW-Unifor

CC: Hon. Diane Lebouthillier, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Hon. Dominic LeBlanc, Minister of Public Safety, Democratic Institutions and Intergovernmental Affairs Canada
Elizabeth Arseneault, Advisor for Atlantic Region, Prime Minister's Office
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Honourable Seamus O'Regan, Minister of Labour Canada
Churence Rogers, MP for Bonavista—Burin—Trinity
Ken McDonald, MP for Avalon
Yvonne Jones, MP for Labrador
Joanne Thompson, MP for St. John's East
Clifford Small, MP for Coast of Bays—Central—Notre Dame
Hon. Dr. Andrew Furey, Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador
Hon. Elvis Loveless, Minister of Fisheries, Forestry, and Agriculture, NL
MHA John Abbott, St. John's East
MHA Derek Bennett, Lewisporte - Twillingate
MHA Jordan Brown, Labrador West
MHA Gerry Byrne, Corner Brook
MHA Siobhan Coady, St. John's West
MHA Helen Conway Ottenheimer, Harbour Main
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MHA Lisa Dempster, Cartwright - L'Anse au Clair
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MHA John Hogan, Windsor Lake
MHA Kirsta Lynn Howell, St. Barbe - L'Anse aux Meadows
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MHA Eddie Joyce, Humber - Bay of Islands
MHA Paul Lane, Mount Pearl - Southlands
MHA Jim McKenna, Fogo Island - Cape Freels
MHA Loyola O'Driscoll, Ferryland
MHA Tom Osborne, Waterford Valley
MHA Craig Pardy, Bonavista
MHA Lloyd Parrott, Terra Nova
MHA Andrew Parsons, Burgeo - La Poile
MHA Pam Parsons, Harbour Grace - Port de Grave
MHA Barry Petten, Conception Bay South
MHA Paul Pike, Burin - Grand Bank
MHA Scott Reid, St. George's - Humber
MHA Sarah Stoodley, Mount Scio
MHA Lucy Stoyles, Mount Pearl North
MHA Chris Tibbs, Grand Falls-Windsor - Buchans
MHA Perry Trimper, Lake Melville
MHA Tony Wakeham, Stephenville - Port au Port
MHA Joedy Wall, Cape St. Francis
