

The Honorable Catherine McKenna
Minister of Environment and Climate Change
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Dear Minister:

Re: Request for Designation for CEAA Federal Assessment - Northern Pulp Effluent Treatment Facility

On behalf of Guysborough County Inshore Fishermen's Association (GCIFA), I am writing to support the request from fishermen's organizations from Nova Scotia, PEI and New Brunswick and Pictou Landing First Nation to have Northern Pulp's Effluent Treatment Project designated a project for Federal Environmental Assessment under Section 14 of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (CEAA) 2012.

GCIFA represents 400+ CORE license holders and crewmembers as well as the fishing communities in the Chedabucto Bay and area. We share the waters and fishing resources on the eastern side of the Canso Causeway which is in the Scotia Fundy Region of DFO. We are constantly seeding and feeding each other for many marine species, commercial, recreational and non-utilized species. These waterways are vital to our shared ecosystems and as part of a dependent food web and habitat. As well we are the main gateway for migrating fish stocks heading into and from the Gulf. Whatever effects the Gulf watersheds affects us in Chedabucto Bay and beyond.

We are very concerned about the harm to fish and fish habitat that could result from Northern Pulp's proposal to discharge 70-90 million litres of treated effluent from a bleached kraft mill every day through a 10.5k pipe into the prime fishing grounds of the Northumberland Strait. In fact, a Federal government study recently concluded that even when meeting federal regulations, 70% of pulp mills in Canada continue to have harmful effects on aquatic life and habitat.

The Northumberland Strait is a rich and vital fishing ground. As Canada's number one seafood exporter, our province's two-billion dollar seafood industry is built on the reputation of seafood harvested from clean, cold, pristine waters off our province's rugged coastline.

Thousands of families from all three provinces, including First Nation communities in those provinces, make their living from the Northumberland Strait. Many fishermen come from families which have fished for generations. They have made changes to help keep

our waters clean, so that their children and grandchildren can fish also. Owner-operator fishermen are an important part of our regional economies. Fishermen generate many jobs in our communities. They buy their supplies locally, and they spend their profits locally.

The provincial government's past handling of effluent from this mill has resulted in one of the most contaminated sites in Canada, Boat Harbour. Our organization wants to see a strong, science based review of this project which will protect the present and future health of the Northumberland Strait and the economy which depends on healthy waters.

Sincerely,

Eugene O'Leary
President of Guysborough County Inshore Fishermen's Association

cc:

Dominic Leblanc, Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard, Room 420-N,
Centre Block, Parliament Hill, Ottawa, ON, K1A 0A2

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