

MFU Local 4's letter concerning Northern Pulp.

14 November 2017

The Honourable Iain Rankin,
Minister of Environment.Nova Scotia
Nova Scotia Environment
PO Box 442Halifax, NS B3J 2P8

Dear Minister Rankin;

The Maritime Fishermen's Union (MFU) would like to advise you that the membership met on Sunday past to discuss the distressing situation of the Northern Pulp proposal to pipe effluent into the Northumberland Strait.

The fishing industry is taking a zero-tolerance approach to effluent being piped into the extremely important and sensitive eco system that provides the livelihood for our industry and our communities. We find it hard to believe that this is even on the table. The fishing industry in Canada is facing increasing environmental responsibilities constantly.

Many of these are implemented by different factions of government. A few examples of this are – Transport Canada is maintaining that there is too much pollution created from fishing boats and asking all vessel owners to install holding tanks for their waste, The Federal government is moving toward 10% of our oceans be Marine Protected Areas (MPA's) to protect the habitat. We understand this because simply put our planet does not survive without a healthy ocean.

We want to be very, very clear that we are not interested in anyone losing important forestry jobs in our communities. We do not want to see neighbours pitted against neighbours over this issue. We do not want to have Northern Pulp closed. What we want is for Northern Pulp to ante up and take the financial responsibility needed to implement an environmentally sound system.

We are asking that they be made to reuse their waste water and NONE of it be flushed into the Strait. We understand there is a system or systems in place that allows this scenario but they are expensive. Losing the fishing industry in NS is also expensive. We are not only talking about the fishing industry in the Strait around Northern Pulp we are talking about the whole Canadian lobster brand.

You, as the Minister of Environment, for NS needs to understand that. Responsibility lies on your shoulders here. Northern Pulp has launched a corporate feel-good media campaign. This seem incongruous to the issue at hand. These campaigns are expensive and while Northern Pulp is surely a good corporate citizen to the community perhaps they should reevaluate what that really means. It is, in fact, insulting to the fishing industry.

The fishing industry in NS would rather spend its resources on pro-active environmental issues than on a campaign reacting to corporate irresponsibility. We want you to know we are collaborating with other fishing organizations around this issue. We would also like to reiterate we are not asking to have anyone lose important jobs in rural Nova Scotia. We want our communities to be strong and united.

Respectfully Submitted,
Gordon Beaton, President
MFU Local 4

Cc: Minister Dominic LeBlanc, Minister Catherine McKenna, Minister Keith Colwell, Geoff Irvine