Media Advisory
November 30, 2018

Meeting regulations is not the same as protecting fisheries from harm

In response to recent statements made by Northern Pulp and Paper Excellence, Friends of the Northumberland Strait (FONS) is providing a backgrounder with some basic facts about pulp effluent, current regulations and potential impacts on fisheries.

Meeting Regulations is not the same as Protecting Fisheries from Harm provides information and analysis based principally on a Federal government study of environmental effects of pulp effluent which meets current regulations.

"EEM (environmental effects monitoring) studies have shown that the effluents from 70% of pulp and paper mills are impacting fish and/or fish habitat and the impacts at 55% of these mills are indicative of a higher risk to the environment," according to Environment and Climate Change Canada.

PPER regulate only a limited number of substances. Long-term effects, including impacts on reproduction or growth, cumulative impacts on fish habitat and the larger environment or accumulation of substances harmful for human consumption are not regulated under the PPER.

Present regulations were adopted in 1992. The twenty-six year old PPER are presently under review.

Fishermen's organizations have asked Northern Pulp for almost a year to provide detailed information on the composition of the effluent they plan to release. Northern Pulp has provided no information on the composition of the effluent from the proposed new system to the groups.

We hope that this information will provide a science-based context for statements such as Northern Pulp's statement this week that the treated effluent the company wants to discharge into the Northumberland Strait would be "non-toxic and will meet Federal environmental guidelines" and the recent statement from Paper Excellence VP that "The treated effluent, when it goes into the ocean — it's really just dissolving or disappearing."

Attached:
Meeting Regulations is Not The Same as Protecting Fisheries from Harm Backgrounder