

# Nova Scotia Fisheries Sector Council

May 15, 2018

The Honourable 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 the Nova Scotia Fisheries Sector Council 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.

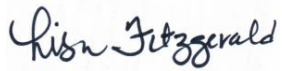
We are very concerned about the harm to fish and fish habitat that could result from Northern Pulp's proposal to discharge 70-90 million litres of treated effluent from a bleached kraft mill every day through a 10.5k pipe into the prime fishing grounds of the Northumberland Strait. In fact, a Federal 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa Fitzgerald". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Lisa Fitzgerald  
Executive Director

**cc:**

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

**Iain Rankin**, Department of Environment, 1894 Barrington Street, Suite 1800, P.O. Box 442, Halifax, NS, B3J 2P8

**Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency NS Regional Office**, Northern Pulp file, 200-1801 Hollis Street, Halifax, NS, B3J 3N4