

February 18, 2019

I am very concerned about Northern Pulp Mills proposal to discharge effluent into our pristine waters of the Northumberland Strait. I am having difficulty understanding why our provincial government wants to allow this discharge of “Chemicals” into our oceans and yet the Department of Fisheries & Oceans is designating areas of ocean protection in Canada. Should we not be united and striving to protect all our oceans?

My husband is a commercial fisherman whose fishing grounds will be impacted by the discharge of effluent into the strait. Our income depends on his ability to fish. We know from past experience that chemicals do affect the life span of our animals/birds. They were affected by DDT. We have learned a lot from past experiences and should be applying the knowledge today to prevent further environmental disastrous.

The waste proposal poses major risk to harming marine life and marine habitat, including species at risk. The proposed area is a well-known spawning area for herring and lobster. Our livelihood depends on healthy Herring Stocks, Lobster Stocks and Oysters/Clams. In fact, shellfish species are filter fed from the bottom of the ocean. The shellfish will become contaminated and unfit for human consumptions.

This area also lists temporary and permanent closures for Fishermen around the outflow area, creating a no fish zone. The Fishermen in that area have done a lot to protect our oceans yet big companies are given permission to dump chemicals into the ocean. Why is this allowed to happen? The water temperature will increase from the effluent which will rise up to the top of the ocean water where lobster larvae live during their first stages of life. It is in fact the lobster nursery.

The proposed pipe will travel overland from Pictou Harbour to Caribou Harbour. What happens if there is a spill? Pictou water supply is at risk of contamination from a spill. Pictou Water supply comes from ground water/wells. What monitoring system will be in place to notify if a spill has occurred?

The Government has already allowed Boat Harbour to be destroyed!

Now that we know better, we should do better!

Please be responsible and make the decision to protect our future!

Sincerely,

Heather and Eugene Fortune

Toney River, Nova Scotia