

Dear Premier Stephen McNeil and Minister for the Environment Gordon Wilson,

I am Danny Clements. I am a commercial fisherman from Prince Edward Island who has prosecuted fisheries in the Northumberland Strait as a licensed captain since 1984. I worked as a crewmember for nine years before that. I have served on the advisory board for the 16F herring fishery which takes place along the Nova Scotia shore. As well, I am a board member and Secretary Treasurer for the Beach Point Harbour Authority.

I am extremely concerned about effects this project will have on the commercial fishery. Presently, the mainstay of the Northumberland Strait fishery is the lobster fishery. The marine ecosystem is a delicate balance which can be easily upset by external factors. The external factor which I am referencing specifically is the introduction of 80-90 million liters of 32 degree FRESH water to this ecosystem on a daily basis. That adds up to over 32,000,000,000 liters in a year. Lobster larvae are especially sensitive to fresh water in the water column and it will immediately affect their survival. We as an industry cannot agree to this being an acceptable risk. This fishery involves three provinces and thousands of jobs which are at very real risk if the balance is upset. The Northumberland Strait is almost a closed ecosystem. There are gyres at each end of the strait which in effect means that the water for the most part moves east and west with the tide, but the actual water change is not substantial. Any contaminants which are introduced tend to stay in the system.

As well a great deal of the income over my 45 year career on the Northumberland Strait has been derived in the area around Pictou Island and the shores of Nova Scotia from Cape George to Cape John from the scallop and herring fisheries. The scallop and herring fisheries are a vital part of the tool box as a commercial fisherman. Herring spawn in the area of the proposed outfall and any deterrence introduced by salinity changes or particulates from the effluent can greatly harm a stock already approaching dangerous levels. Are we willing to risk the health of this fish stock?

There are many more points in this proposal which I could address but am basing my comments on how it will directly affect me and my family. It is incredible that we are even having this conversation in 2019. It is not 1919! The fishery in the Northumberland Strait has a bright future which could be snuffed out by pretending that allowing a pipe into the Strait will have little or no effect. We as a fishing industry are just now recovering from the effects of the construction of the Confederation Bridge. For once common sense and the environment need to win out over politics and money. As a government you need to make the right decision.

It is very unfortunate that Northern Pulp has chosen to make this an either/or decision. They have pitted neighbour against neighbour and industry against industry. They should have

introduced the option of a closed system long before the Boat Harbour closure was imminent.

Respectfully,

Danny Clements