

Pictou, NS
Fisherman

Re: Northern Pulp's ETF proposed project and Focus Report

Dear Minister Gordon Wilson, Premier Stephen MacNeil and Nova Scotia Environment Department,

I am writing in relation to Northern Pulp's Replacement Effluent Treatment Facility Project Focus Report. I am a commercial fisherman out of Caribou, NS. A business owner, father and husband.

Section 7.0 Fish and Fish Habitat

I have been a commercial fisher for 32 years and have owned a commercial fishing business for 24 years. I hold licenses for lobster, herring, squid, scallops, mackerel, smelts and swordfish. Lobster being my main source of income, then herring and scallops. I fish lobster and herring along the proposed route, within the diffuser end, and the surrounding area. *Figure 1 Chart of Caribou Harbour showing proposed route and location of the diffuser end in Section 7.0 Fish and Fish Habitat* is basically a chart of where I fish lobster and herring (and beyond the page as well) In short, the effluent will be released DIRECTLY INTO where I set my traps everyday. Northern Pulp claims that the continuous daily discharge of pulp effluent will do no harm to the lobster and lobster larvae, yet they failed to produce a study that proves this. *Section 7 of the Terms of Reference of the Focus report 7.3 states:*

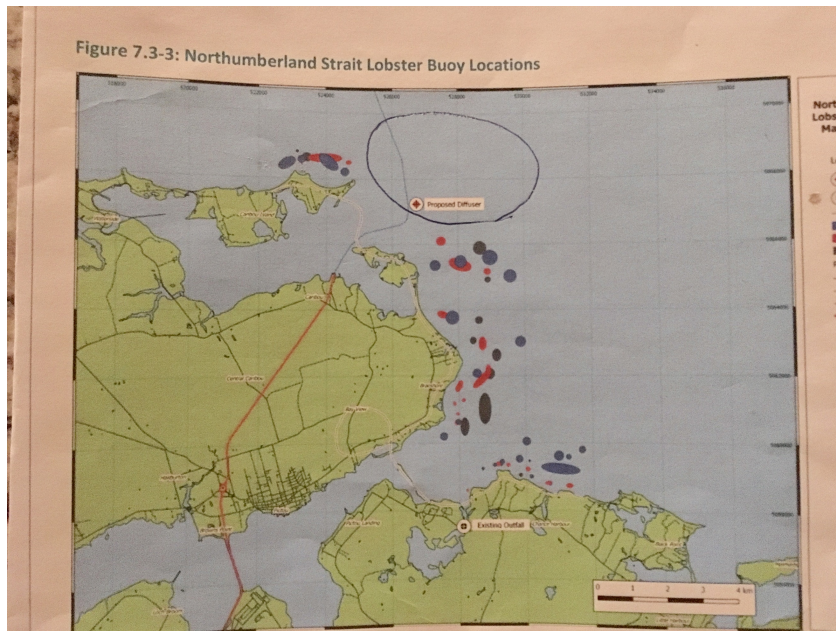
Conduct additional impact assessment of treated effluent on representative key marine fish species important for commercial, recreational and Aboriginal fisheries. This must be based upon updated information, additional studies and/or an understanding of expected movement of contaminants.....

Northern Pulp failed to conduct this report. Exact wording from focus report:

"No studies completed on Lobster Larvae, Herring eggs or Phytoplankton. Future studies could include toxicity testing, specifically on larval lobster and herring eggs to evaluate sublethal effects on these species."

Having been a lobster harvester for over three decades gives me an in-depth knowledge of their life cycles and habits, yet Northern Pulp never asked for our input regarding species. Lack of consulting with key stakeholders in relation to this proposal proves absolute disregard for the fishing industry. We have taken extreme measure to protect and conserve the juvenile American Lobster over the years and continue to modify those measures to ensure a healthy, and sustainable future fishery.

Figure 7.3-3 Northumberland Strait Lobster Buoy Locations



The above figure is an outright gross misrepresentation of the facts, an obvious misleading document. Northern Pulp had a survey boat hired to do work in the pipe route and diffuser area for the month of May, which coincides with our lobster season. This survey boat had to daily, navigate around our buoys, getting in our way of setting our traps, almost colliding with us on foggy mornings. Why didn't they request the survey boat to take note and document where buoys were present in relation to the pipe route and diffuser outflow area. Instead, they hire an airplane to fly over land and take oblique pictures! It is difficult to see my own buoys when they are a boat length away from me in the water, yet Northern Pulp figured they would get a good view of them 1000 feet above the land! Figure 7.3-3 shows no buoys where Northern Pulp wants there to be no buoys. But there are buoys there, lots of them, proving this report to be a falsehood.

My wife had a telephone conversation with Terri Fraser, Project Manager at Northern Pulp and a conversation via email. Terri told my wife on the phone that where there are no color coated ovals, big dots and little dots on Figure 7.3-3 there are no buoys. Below is the email thread. Take note: Terri Fraser "Oblique capture was chosen to eliminate sun reflections"

FW: Focus Report Figure 7.3-3 Northumberland Strait Lobster Buoy Locations

Mon 2019-11-04 9:04 AM

Good afternoon [REDACTED]

Nortek used high resolution photography and interpreted the imagery to generate the figure. They do not distribute their high-res photography. Oblique capture was chosen to eliminate sun reflections.

Best Regards,
Terri

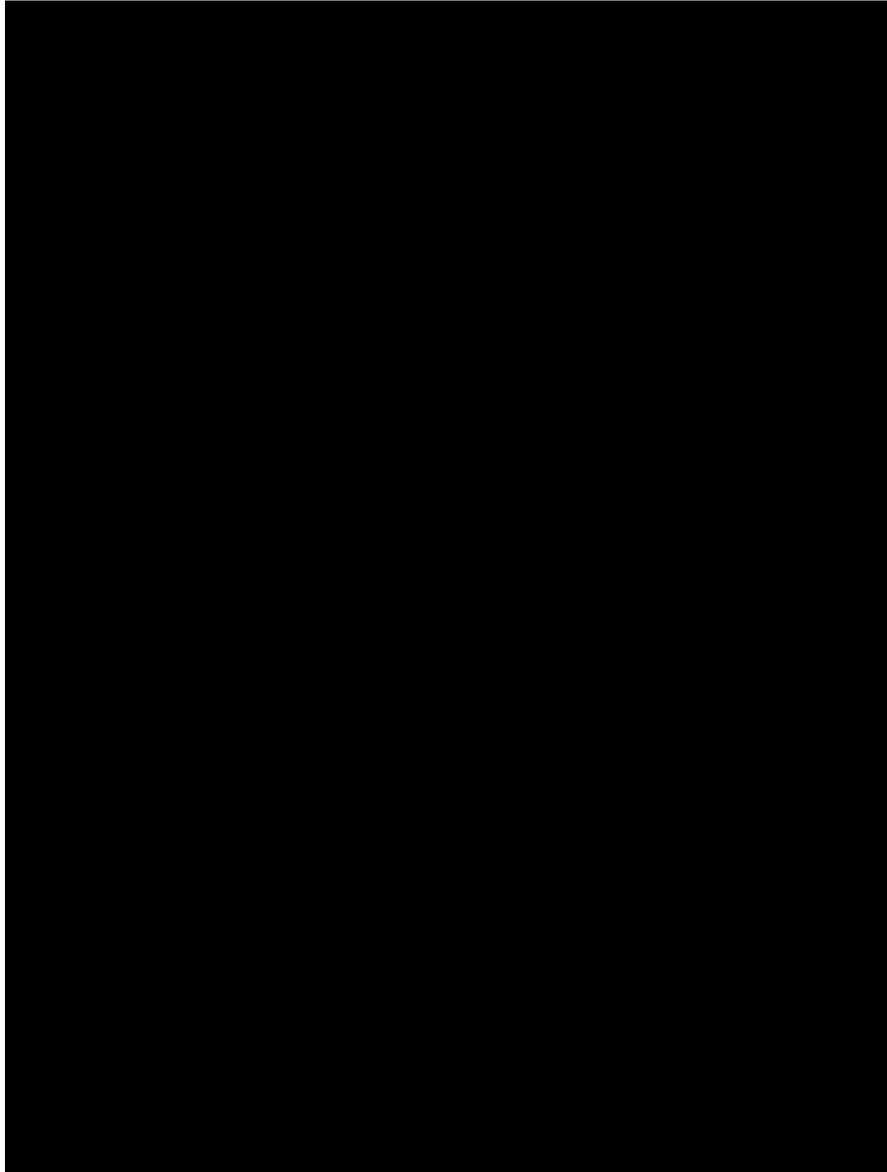
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, October 31, 2019 1:05 PM
To: NPNS_Info <info@northernpulp.com>
Subject: Focus Report Figure 7.3-3 Northumberland Strait Lobster Buoy Locations

1. [REDACTED] data derived from oblique aerial" but who did the report that was used in the Focus Report?
2. Why oblique rather than vertical capture?
3. Was there photographs or just video?
4. Why was the flight path above land and not above the water?
5. Was the weather documented for these three days?
6. Would you be forthcoming with the actual video footage and photographs?

I take notes every day while fishing and part of those notes are the weather. The days noted on Figure of 7.3-3 the weather was, as follows, according to my record:
May 6, 2019 - 12:00 noon 8 degrees, Northeast wind and overcast with sunny breaks
May 24, 2019 - 12:00 noon 7 degrees, South wind and rain
June 18, 2019 - 12:00 noon 10 degrees, North wind and rain

So, I ask you, why would they have to take oblique capture to avoid sun reflections, when there were no sun reflections on those days?

The following picture is a page out of my ledger book. It is June 18th, one of the three days Nortek flew overhead and allegedly saw zero buoys where indicated on Figure 7.3-3. The highlighted coordinates are within the outflow location and according to the scale within 1000 metres of the outflow location; in the exact location Northern Pulp is claiming there were no buoys on June 18. You will note that I have 16 highlighted trawls, representing 80 traps under the water and 32 buoys. Please note I am, by far, NOT the only fisherman in this area.



I was so shocked by Northern Pulp's attempt to mislead the Province with this false lobster buoy figure that it compelled me to send an email to Minister Wilson's office asking if someone from your department would come down and take a sail on my boat and I could show you the receiving water area. That prompted Mark Theriault from the local Department of Environment to call me and said he would go out on my boat. He has not as of today. It is extremely important that anyone who is reviewing this project get a firsthand look at this area. I wanted to make note of the invitation in this response.

requesting a boat trip

Wed 2019-10-30 2:05 AM

To: minister.environment@novascotia.ca

<minister.environment@novascotia.ca>

Good Morning the Honorable Gordon Wilson,

My name is I am a commercial fisherman out of the Northumberland Strait and my home port is Caribou NS. I have until November 8 to submit my comment on Northern Pulp's effluent treatment project under the public comment period. Section 7 and Figure 7.3-3 Northumberland Strait Lobster Buoy Locations. This figure is showing no buoys in the outflow location. This is invalid. My wife told me that I should take pictures of my daily ledger of coordinates and send them along with my submission. Firstly, I do not know how to do that, however I am certain she could assist me. Secondly, why do I have to prove to department where I fish when a company is lying about it. Why do I lose sleep every night because a company decided to fudge reports. The best way I can show you the area is for you, or someone from the department to come on my boat for no more than an hour and I can sail you to the exact spot of the outflow areas and explain where we all fish. I am requesting this as a last resort to save my livelihood. I am disturbed at the fact that when the survey boat was out in May, myself and other fisherman had to wait to throw our trolls off the boat because the survey boat was in the way. Three days out of the season we had planes circling us taking pictures. And now, when I look at this report, they say that there was no fishing there? It would be super easy for your department to come out for a field trip and I can physically show you the area!! November 8 is almost here. Could someone call me back please and we can discuss this:

Sincerely,

A fisherman desperately trying to save his business,

Page 120 of section 7.0 Fish and Fish Habitat last paragraph reads:

The proposed treated effluent pipeline traverses the Scallop Buffer Zone, SFA 24, set in place in order to protect lobster nursery habitat. The placement of the pipeline diffuser was chosen to minimize the impact in active fishing areas.

So, I am trying to wrap my head around Northern Pulp's attempted logic.... putting the diffuser in active fishing areas minimizes impact to fishing areas? And digging and excavating more than 40,000 cubic meters of soil within the scallop buffering zone, a protected area, is considered "minimizing impact"? The following paper is my Registration and Fishing Licence for 2019 for Sea Scallop by Fisheries and Oceans Canada the highlighted portion is the Fishing Restrictions stating:

2. FISHING RESTRICTIONS

2.1 No person shall fish for scallop in that portion of SFA 24, in those waters adjacent to the Province of Nova Scotia within one (1) nautical mile from the nearest point of land in the counties of Cumberland, Colchester, Pictou, including Pictou Island in the Northumberland Strait and Antigonish.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada / Pêches et Océans Canada Document No: DFO-
REGISTRATION(S) AND/OR FISHING LICENCE(S) - 2019
This document authorizes the registration card holder and/or licence holder to engage in fishing and related activities on the Atlantic coast of Canada subject to the provisions of the Fisheries Act, the Species at Risk Act and the Regulations made thereunder. This licence and/or registration is issued under the authority of the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

LICENCE HOLDER
BOK 1H0

FIN
ISSUANCE DATE: October 18, 2019
ISSUING REGION: GULF

Licence No.
Species SCALLOP, SEA
Homeport CARIBOU/FERRY WHARF
Operator
Vessel VRN: NAME: LOA: 1

**2019 LICENCE CONDITIONS
VALID FOR FISHING SCALLOP
IN SCALLOP FISHING AREA 24**

This licence confers on the licence holder/operator, subject to the Fisheries Act and Regulations made thereunder, the authority to fish under the conditions set out below:

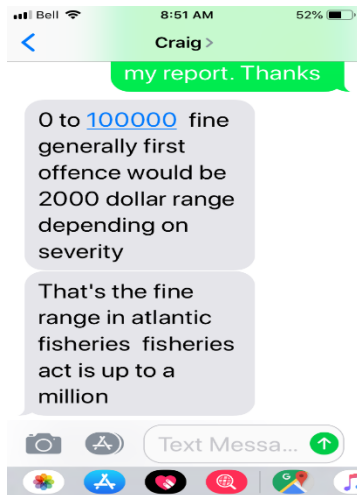
1. FISHING AREA
1.1 These licence conditions are valid for fishing Scallop in Scallop Fishing Area 24 (SFA 24).

2. FISHING RESTRICTIONS
2.1 No person shall fish for scallop in that portion of SFA 24, in those waters adjacent to the Province of Nova Scotia within one (1) nautical mile from the nearest point of land in the counties of Cumberland, Colchester, Pictou, including Pictou Island in the Northumberland Strait and Antigonish.
2.2 No person shall fish for scallop in that portion of SFA 24, in those waters adjacent to the western coast of Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, within one (1) nautical mile from the nearest point of land, from the Canso Causeway, northward including Henry Island and Port Hood Island, to Mabou Harbour entrance range lights.
2.3 No person shall fish for scallop in that portion of SFA 24, known as the western coast of Cape Breton from the Mabou Harbour entrance range lights, northward to the divisional line between scallop fishing area 24 and scallop fishing area 25 at High Capes, enclosed by the coastline and rhumb lines (similar to straight lines plotted on a nautical chart) joining the following points in the order in which they are listed below:

Point	Latitude North	Longitude West
1	46° 05' 09.2"N	61° 27' 55.2"W

If convicted of Section 2 2.1 of Licence the fine ranges from \$0.00 to \$1,000,000.00.

Please see attached photo of a screen shot of my text conversation with local DFO officer Craig MacDonald. I asked him what the fine is should you drag scallops inside the buffer zone.



In summary; I cannot drag my scallop bags on the ocean floor within one nautical mile of any body of land located on the Northumberland Strait or I could get fined two thousand to one million dollars.

Some of the limitations set out by DFO are as follows:

Prohibitions Scallop Dragging, no other human activities that take place in this area are incompatible with the conservation of the ecological components of interest. Please refer to <http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/oceans/oeabcm-amcepz//refuges/sfa-zpp-eng.html>

This is in place to protect the Juvenile American Lobster. The focus report reads in Section 7.3 Marine Environment Impact Assessment figures 3-11, 3-12, 3-13, and 3-14 and then it states that the outfall location is outside of this buffer zone. I would like to point out to you Minister Wilson, the pipe route where they plan to excavate thousands and thousands of cubic meters of the ocean floor is well inside the buffer zone, the marine refuge. The outfall location is also within the buffer zone as one (1) nautical mile equals 1.852 km. Northern Pulp and their consultants do not even have an understanding of one of the biggest and most important conservation measures ever undertaken by Fisheries in this region! And apparently, they do not know how long a nautical mile is!

In closing:

I have been fishing since I was 17 years old. I have been fortunate to have been able to get up every day and do a job that I love. I have had my fair share of struggles throughout the years of fishing. From learning the ins and outs of being a business owner and the responsibilities and stress that goes along with that to the constant fluctuation in market price versus inflation in fuel, bait, gear etc. I have been through species closures and new limitations, all to protect and conserve our natural

and delicate ecosystem..... we work hard and take pride in maintaining a sustainable future for our children and grandchildren. This also takes a considerable amount of financial sacrifice, a sacrifice that we are willing to take on. As a fisherman I contend with mother nature in ways that most would never understand; wondering sometimes if she is hungry enough to swallow me or give me the mercy to make it home to my wife and daughter. We call it "a love of the game". Minister Wilson, I have been through rough seas that swallowed my boat whole, forcing me to swim through the roaring, dark sea and wait for rescue. I am a fighter, and I will fight for my livelihood.

My expenditures in the run of a year sometimes triple that of the average worker at Northern Pulp and each dollar spent goes back into our local economy. I provide a good living for my worker to support his growing family. Fishing has allowed me the pleasure of supporting local charities, schools and sports teams. The fisherman of Nova Scotia are the backbone of the economy and we don't need a Gardner Pinfold study to prove that. We harvest a food that is sought after globally and we do not deserve to be treated this way by this company, to have our whole lives turned upside down all for the sake of the mighty dollar of a foreign owned company. Having to prove that I fish where I fish because Northern Pulp, that is holding this Province hostage, took great measures to lie about it, is absolute ludicrous. It is revolting that Northern Pulp is outright threatening the fishing industry, the tourism industry, the forestry industry, our health, the health and well being of the people of Pictou Landing First Nation. The Northumberland Strait borders three provinces. You have a duty to prevent a catastrophic event from occurring. I am asking you to uphold that duty.

I am asking, with every fibre of my being, to **reject this project**.

Yours Truly,

