



MEDIA RELEASE  
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## #NOPIPE Rally - Support builds as July 6 event nears

**Pictou, Nova Scotia:** Lobster fishermen have just hauled their traps from the Northumberland Strait for the season. Now they are readying their boats for the #NOPIPE Land & Sea Rally on Friday, July 6.

“We have had long days of fishing for the last two months, but we haven’t lost focus on what’s at stake,” says Allan MacCarthy, a third-generation lobster fisherman from Caribou Wharf, NS. “Friday, July 6 is our day to unite and tell our government that dumping 70-90 million litres of pulp waste a day into prime fishing grounds is not acceptable.”

MacCarthy expects to see fishing boats from all three Maritime provinces and Pictou Landing First Nation in Pictou Harbour at 1 pm on July 6, to show their opposition to Northern Pulp’s proposed new effluent treatment system. The proposed system would pipe waste effluent through a 10 kilometre underwater pipe from the Abercrombie Point pulp mill to discharge into the Northumberland Strait, home to rich lobster, crab, scallop, herring and mackerel fisheries and spawning grounds.

“The No Pipe rally has been buzzing over our VHF boat radios and at the wharfs for the last few weeks,” says MacCarthy. “This proposed pipe has fishermen from Nova Scotia, PEI and New Brunswick uniting like we never have before. One fisherman has even offered a \$500 reward for the boat traveling the farthest to the rally.”

“We all fish the same waters,” says Bobby Jenkins from the PEI Fishermen’s Association. “What happens to the Northumberland Strait will affect the futures of all of us. PEIFA will be at the rally to say “No Pipe in the Strait.”

While excitement for the rally builds among fishermen on the water, momentum is also gaining on land.

Chief Andrea Paul of Pictou Landing First Nation, has invited chiefs from the three Maritime provinces to stand with her at the July 6th rally.

On rally morning, Pictou Lodge manager Wes Surett will host the Tourism Industry of Nova Scotia’s (TIANS) Board of Directors’ monthly meeting. “I couldn’t be more pleased that TIANS asked to hold their meeting in Pictou on July 6, in order to attend the rally at noon,” says Surett.

“Businesses in the Pictou area have faced challenges from poor air quality from the pulp mill for years,” Surett explains. “Pulp effluent in the Strait would be a huge blow to the \$200 million tourism industry on the Northumberland Shore and our brand of clean, warm waters.”

Rally organizers say the event is starting to take on a life of its own. “We’ve had so many offers of support from individuals and organizations,” says Krista Fulton of Friends of the Northumberland Strait. “While some say the mill has divided the community for 50 years, I’ve witnessed how Northern Pulp’s latest proposal has drawn this community closer together.”

Town of Pictou Mayor Jim Ryan is one community member who has stepped up to the plate. Ryan will open the event and welcome people to the rally and the community.

In the neighbouring municipality of New Glasgow, resident and avid sport fisherman, Matt Dort, has built his own on-line audience of over 17,000 to help spread the “no pipe” word and promote the rally.

Fulton says organizations including the David Suzuki Foundation, Ecology Action Centre, and the Council of Canadians have been spreading the word beyond Pictou County through their regional and national networks. Halifax’s Ecology Action Centre has offered bus transportation for people needing a ride and are encouraging those with vehicles to carpool.

“We are so pleased to see so much support coming from outside Pictou County, because this issue really does affect the whole province,” says Fulton. “We encourage people to stay in Pictou for the weekend and take in the Pictou Lobster Carnival festivities. We are proud of our fishing culture here in Pictou and once the rally wraps up, we’ll take the rest of the weekend to celebrate the end of a successful lobster fishing season and the safe return of our fishermen.”

Fulton promises that local restaurants will be serving up lots of the Atlantic Coast lobster that the Maritime provinces are so famous for.

The #NOPIPE Land and Sea Rally is organized by Friends of the Northumberland Strait and the Northumberland Fisherman’s Association. More rally information at [nopiperally.com](http://nopiperally.com)