

Bulletin

April 2023

NDP Demands End to Foreign Ownership

NDP MPs Lisa Marie On April 6th, 2023, NDP MPs Lisa Marie Barron (Nanaimo – Ladysmith) and Taylor Bachrach (Skeena – Bulkley Valley) sent a letter to Fisheries and Oceans Minister Joyce Murray demanding an end to the foreign ownership of commercial fishing licenses. This letter follows a Union-

launched parliamentary petition to stop the foreign ownership of fishing licenses in Canada.

The MPs highlighted the importance of protecting wild salmon, coastal communities, and the livelihoods of local workers through a ban on the transfer of commercial fishing licenses to foreign ownership. They emphasized that foreign ownership of fishing licenses and quotas poses a huge risk to the economic viability

of Canadian fisheries and Canadian food security, leading to a loss of domestic fish processing capacity and jobs.

In the letter, the MPs called on the government to prioritize the well-being of wild Pacific salmon and coastal communities over the interests of large international corporations.

“There is a clear problem here. We should be prioritizing the wellbeing of wild salmon and coastal

communities, not allowing our fisheries to be sold to foreign corporations,” MP Bachrach said.

The MPs also expressed their commitment to fighting for the coastal communities, workers, and the next generation of Canadian fish harvesters until there is a full ban on the transfer of fishing licenses to foreign corporations.

Read the full letter at ndp.ca.

PSAC Strike Update: Labour Disruptions & Impacts on Fisheries

As of April 28, 2023, the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC), representing 155,000 public service workers, is on strike. Labour disruptions may

have impacts on commercial fisheries. The UFAWU's efforts are underway in representing commercial fisheries as essential services, and we will communicate updates on UFAWU-Unifor.org as further information becomes available.

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans advises that licensing processes will be impacted. License issuance

will be prioritized, though delays are to be expected. License and quota transfers will occur in lesser priority order.

It is strongly recommended that licensing-related requests be submitted to DFO as early as possible.

DFO has indicated that delays in fishery openings are not anticipated at this time,

also noting that the situation is fluid and without certainty.

UFAWU-Unifor stands in support of striking PSAC workers and hopes that a fair resolution is imminent.

Please note that the information provided in this bulletin is accurate as of April 28, 2023, but may change as the situation evolves.

Webinar Invitation: Working Towards Climate Resilient Fisheries

Fish harvesters, crew, and anyone working in the commercial fishing industry are invited to join Nature United's up-

coming webinar "Working Towards Climate Resilient Fisheries: Learning from Collaborative Initiatives South and North of Canada's Borders."

This event, which will take place on May 5, 2023, aims to provide attendees with an enhanced understanding of the work that U.S.

collaborations are doing to advance the development of climate-resilient fisheries.

The webinar will feature a "fishing industry perspectives" panel, which includes three experts with a lifetime of experience on the water and working in different roles within the fisheries sector. They will share

their experiences participating in collaborative initiatives that explore pathways for building fisheries and fisheries management that are more resilient and adaptive to current and future climate change impacts.

Go to UFAWU-Unifor.org for information on joining the webinar.

DFO Science Report Released by FOPO

The Standing Committee on Fisheries and Oceans (FOPO) has released Science At The Department Of Fisheries And Oceans — a report with 48 recommendations aimed at improving the science and scientific processes of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO).

The report is the result of a study to "examine how the Department of Fisheries and Oceans prioritizes, resources and develops scientific studies and advice for the department, how the results of scientific study are communicated to the Minister and Canadians, and how the minister applies data and advice provided

by the department and other government departments to ministerial decisions."

Of the 48 recommendations, several are of particular interest to the fishing industry:

Recommendations 39 and 40 address the issue of pinnipeds. These recommend that scientists conduct diet analysis for all species of pinnipeds over longer periods of the year in more diverse regions than in the past while providing this data publicly on the DFO website. Also suggested is that scientists compare data from countries with similar species of pinnipeds to accurately assess the effects of predation when estimating mortality levels in fish stock biomass.

Recommendations 41 through 48 specifically refer to salmon, addressing "problems with transparency and the communication of scientific information to the public and with the communication of science advice to the Minister," as well as the "apparent conflict of interest within DFO between its mandate to protect aquatic species and its mandate to regulate and promote aquaculture."

Notable salmon recommendations include a direct request to the Minister for a written statement regarding an omission or cancellation of a CSAS process on Fraser Sockeye, as well as a recommendation that the Canadian Government remove the promotion of salmon farming as an industry and farmed salmon as

a product from the DFO mandate.

The report also includes several recommendations that direct DFO to build co-governance and traditional knowledge from a range of harvesters into science and management processes.

The report concludes with the supplementary Conservative report Crisis of Trust in DFO Science which addresses the concerns of Canadians following "years of witnessing decisions of a series of fisheries ministers and the DFO being announced without science reasons or explanations of factors weighed."

Read the full report at ourcommons.ca.