

Bulletin

March 2023

Union Meets With Minister Murray

On March 14, UFAWU-Union Leadership & Staff attended a series of roundtable meetings with Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard Joyce Murray, members of DFO, and other

commercial fishing industry stakeholders. The roundtables were focused on key topics related to prawn, crab, salmon, and groundfish, and included discussions on owner operator policy, foreign ownership of fishing licenses and quotas, Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), and other important issues.

During the discussions, UFAWU-Unifor emphasized the

importance of protecting coastal communities and small-scale fishing operations. The union stressed the need for policies that support small-

scale harvesters, promote local fishing economies, and ensure that the benefits of fisheries flow to harvesters and coastal communities.



BCYFN Gathering Recap

The BC Young Fishermen's Network Gathering was a two-day event held this month that brought together young harvesters and industry members from across the province.

The event covered a wide range of topics, including business planning, marketing, marine safety, gear and boat maintenance, fisheries management, science and policy, and the future of fishing.

UFAWU-Unifor President James Lawson and Organizer Dawn Webb participated in the Buoyant Future Panel along with Melissa Collier,

Jim McIsaac, and Sonia Strobel.

The panel discussed how fishermen can access help and become more active in advocacy — with James Lawson and Dawn Webb sharing the Union's history and recent work.

The event also included networking opportunities, locally sourced seafood, and a celebration of fish-

ing on the West Coast. The agenda included sessions on various fisheries, a panel discussion on collaboration, BC Fisheries Management 101 with DFO, gear demos, a presentation on lost gear management, and financing a fishing business with BMO.

Learn more about the BC Young Fishermen's Network at bcyoungfishermen.ca.

Connected Coast Winter 2023 Update

Last year, fish harvesters were asked for their input on Connected Coast — a project set to bring internet services to rural and remote areas in coastal B.C. using sub-sea fibre optic cable. The Connected Coast Winter 2023 Update has now been published with new information on

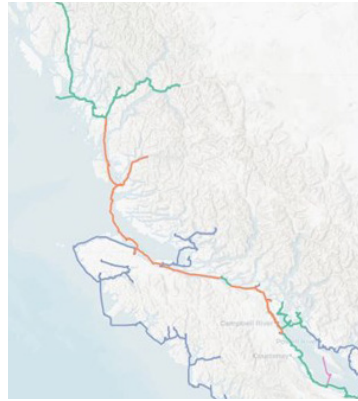
construction efforts, an interactive map, mariner signage, and more.

As of February, the project is currently 60 per cent complete with approximately 1,100 kilometers of fibre-optic cable laid.

Connected Coast has now released a new interactive map that allows mariners to see the current build status on specific locations and search the status of specific landing sites. To view the map, visit their website at connected-coast.ca/map.

Signage that alerts mariners of the new fibre cable network on BC's seafloor has also been created and posted in high-traffic dock locations.

For more information on Connected Coast, visit their website at connect-edcoast.ca.



Foreign Ownership Petition Concludes

The UFAWU-launched Parliamentary Petition to end foreign ownership of fishing licenses concluded on March 22 with thousands of signatures.

UFAWU appreciates the support from Liberal MP Ken Hardie, NDP MP Lisa Marie Barron, and Conservative MP Mel Arnold, as well as everyone who signed the petition.

Thank you!

UFAWU Meets With Pierre Poilievre, MPS

On March 15, UFAWU-Unifor Leadership, Staff, and Members met with Pierre Poilievre, Leader of the Conservative Party of Canada and the Official Opposition, as well as MPs Frank Caputo, Tracy Gray, and Marc Dalton. During the meeting, the Union

shared critical issues affecting harvesters and coastal communities, presenting a range of urgent needs.

Some of the key issues discussed included the need to halt foreign ownership of licenses and quota, develop an Owner Operator policy, protect small-scale fisheries in MPAs, and implement a Labour Force Adjustment program for displaced harvesters. These are all pressing concerns that affect the livelihoods of many in the fishing industry and coastal communities.

The Union appreciated Pierre Poilievre and his colleagues taking time to hear from fishermen and those who represent them.

This meeting provided an opportunity to highlight the challenges faced by harvesters and coastal communities.

