

October 1st, 2021

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau;

On behalf of the Coalition of Fishing Organizations in Atlantic Canada and Quebec, and the over 3000 captains we represent, we would like to congratulate you and your caucus members on your recent federal election results.

As you have noted in many speeches, these are challenging times for all Canadians with many challenges in many industries. The fishing community is not exempt from difficult issues however we view ourselves as solutions finders. We are committed to working hard to preserve the current prosperity in the fishery for many generations to come.

In the past two years, our organization has been very involved in seeking solutions to the issues surrounding the undefined term of “moderate livelihood” as it applies to the fishery. Many of your MPs, Ministers and senior Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada managers have been contacted to discuss our recommendations during this time and to work towards harmony in the fishery between aboriginal and non-aboriginal harvesters.

A cornerstone of this approach is a mechanism that allows all harvesters to have meaningful input into all aspects of the fisheries future. As a resource that is owned by the people of Canada, we all have an obligation to make this work. Quite frankly Prime Minister, the current system of two-party dialogue is not working. Below is a pledge that over 7500 people have signed including pre-

election Liberal Ministers, MPs and candidates in addition to other party members in Atlantic Canada and Quebec.

The pledge is as follows:

I recognize and support the rights of Indigenous peoples, parties to the Treaties of 1760-61, to fish both for food, social and ceremonial purposes and in a commercial fishery as set out in the Supreme Court case of R. v Marshall in 1999.

I believe that science, conservation principles, and the public interest should drive decisions on the fisheries. I believe that the Government of Canada has both the right and the obligation under the Marshall decision to manage the fisheries, with conservation of the resource, equality and fairness as “the paramount regulatory objective, for both indigenous and non-indigenous fisheries.”

I support the Government of Canada, Indigenous Peoples and fishing organizations having discussions and working directly together to manage sustainable and healthy fisheries in a spirit of reconciliation.

I condemn the use of violence in any form as a means of dealing with conflicts.

Our combined efforts are much better put to use working together than as fragmented groups.

Therefore, we respectfully request the following:

1. That you consider appointing an experienced Member of Parliament from the East Coast of Canada to the complicated and dynamic file of Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. The appointment needs a steady hand with first-hand knowledge of the Atlantic commercial fishery.
2. That the Government make a public commitment in the upcoming Throne Speech to formally include Aboriginal and Non-aboriginal harvesters in direct, open and transparent dialogue regarding the future management of the fishery.

We cannot change the events of the past two years. However, we can work collaboratively in finding practical and effective solutions that will work for all harvesters in coastal Canada.

As our Prime Minister it is up to you to lead a reset of this process and to ensure there is a stable and sustainable fishery for Canadians and Indigenous Peoples.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. Mallet', written in a cursive style.

Martin Mallet

Coalition Chair

coalition@1fishery.ca

408, Main St., Shediac, NB, E4P 2G1

Coalition of Atlantic and Québec Fishing Organizations:

- Regroupement des pêcheurs du sud de la Gaspésie (RPPSG)
- Prince Edward Island Fishermen's Association (PEIFA)
- Gulf Nova Scotia Fleet Planning Board
- Maritime Fishermen's Union

Cc:

- Dominic LeBlanc, MP, Beauséjour
- Serge Cormier, MP, Acadie-Bathurst
- Mike Kelloway, MP, Cape Breton-Canso
- Heath MacDonald, MP, Malpeque
- Robert Morrissey, MP, Egmont
- Lawrence MacAulay, MP, Cardigan