



Honourable Bernadette Jordan
Minister of Fisheries, Oceans, and the Canadian Coast Guard
Member of Parliament for South Shore-St. Margaret's
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

September 21, 2020

Honourable Minister Jordan,

Recent escalation of tensions surrounding lobster fishing in South West Nova has brought us to a point where our silence is no longer an option. We, as Council for the Municipality of the District of Argyle recognize that the rules and regulations surrounding the lobster industry are in the hands of Provincial and Federal Governments, and rarely delve into its complexity, but our fishermen need our voice. The industry needs our voice, and the future of the lobster industry need our voice.

It is abundantly clear that current and previous governments failed in their responsibility to clarify First Nation's legitimate rights to fish and the balance that must be implemented to secure a sustainable lobster fishing industry for all parties.

The Municipality recognizes the value of the Marshall decision, and is aware of the important efforts to continue working alongside our First Nation people to recognize the value and validity of Treaty Rights. Most of our fishermen in this Municipality recognize that. This is not the issue.

The issue is that there is an ongoing commercial lobster fishing industry, occurring outside the established lobster season, with little to no accountability. Preservation of this species is of utmost importance.

The lobster industry in Argyle is the backbone of our local economy, and it is the responsibility of the Federal and Provincial Government to take this issue head on; and hold anyone accountable for the ongoing commercial fishing occurring outside of our season, and endangering the long term durability of this important economic driver. We are imploring you and your government to make every effort to deescalate the current situation and bring appropriate people to the table for conversation.

Both the First Nation and non-indigenous fishers in South West Nova deserve clarity. Please, establish some form of regulatory framework that enables appropriate food, social and ceremonial fishing for our First Nation people, and rules that prohibit the commercialization of that fishing outside of the season! As you are no doubt aware, this is a sensitive time of year to be catching lobster. This is why our fishermen are so upset.



We know the issue is complicated. We know previous governments did not tackle this issue appropriately, leaving it unresolved for your government. This issue is beyond blame, it is about resolution. The time is now. No issue worth resolving is easy to resolve. We need your leadership and the leadership of your government that can take effective and assertive action to deescalate now and build a durable lobster industry for our region through clear regulation.

We are confident that all stakeholders would want to be part of a solution. Keep commercial fishing inside the season, for all fishers! Please act now.

Sincerely,

Danny Muise,
Warden

CC: Via e-mail:
Hon. Steven McNeil – Premier, Province of Nova Scotia
Hon. Zach Churchill – Minister of Education
Hon. Gordon Wilson – Minister of Environment
Hon. Keith Colwell – Minister of Fisheries and Agriculture
MLA Colton LeBlanc – Argyle - Barrington
MP Chris d'Entremont, West Nova
Warden Eddie Nickerson – Municipality of the District of Barrington
Warden Ronnie Leblanc – Municipality of the District of Clare
Warden Jimmy McAlpine – Municipality of the District of Digby
Warden Penny Smith – Municipality of the District of Shelburne
Deputy Warden John Cunningham – Municipality of the District of Yarmouth
Mayor Leigh Stoddard – Town of Clark's Harbour
Mayor Ben Cleveland – Town of Digby
Mayor Karen Mattatall – Town of Shelburne
Mayor Pam Mood – Town of Yarmouth

Minister / Ministre (DFO/MPO)

From: Lori Murphy <lmurphy@munargyle.com>
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2020 3:00 PM
To: min_dfa@gov.ns.ca; educmin@novascotia.ca; stephenmcneil@ns.aliantzinc.ca; minister.environment@novascotia.ca; Minister / Ministre (DFO/MPO); Colton LeBlanc; Chris.dEntremont@parl.gc.ca; Eddie Nickerson; Ronnie LeBlanc (rleblanc@munclare.ca); Jimmy MacAlpine; warden@municipalityofshelburne.ca; John Cunningham; leighstoddart@eastlink.ca; Ben Cleveland; mayor@town.shelburne.ns.ca; Pam Mood
Cc: Alain Muise
Subject: Request to Minister Jordan-Commercial Lobster
Attachments: Lobster fishing in South West Nova 2020.pdf

Good afternoon,

Please see the attached letter addressed to The Honorable Minister Jordan regarding the current commercial lobster industry, on behalf of the Municipality of the District of Argyle.

Thank you



LORI MURPHY
Municipal Clerk

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