

## Media Advisory

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**“No Pipe in the Strait” -**

### **Atlantic Canada Fisheries Associations Oppose Proposed Discharge of Abercrombie Point Mill Effluent into Northumberland Strait, Demand Federal Environmental Assessment**

The Gulf Nova Scotia Fleet Planning Board, the Maritime Fishermen’s Union, and the Prince Edward Island Fishermen’s Association, with the support of the New Brunswick Fisheries Association and Pictou Landing First Nation, collectively oppose Northern Pulp Nova Scotia Corporation’s proposed effluent treatment and disposal system for Abercrombie Point Mill that would release 70-90 million litres of effluent *per day*, through a sub-sea pipe, into the Northumberland Strait.

“Given the predictable negative environmental impacts of piping effluent into the Northumberland Strait, our united position is ‘No pipe in the Strait’. The damaging effects of accumulation of toxins that are present even in treated effluent are well-documented and are dangerous for the fish species that spawn and live in the Northumberland Strait,” states President Ronnie Heighton of the of the Gulf Nova Scotia Fleet Planning Board.

Nothing less than a Federal Environmental Assessment is required for this proposed project. Three provincial economies and several First Nation communities depend on a clean and healthy Northumberland Strait. Furthermore, much of the coastline of the Northumberland Strait is designated as a Marine Protected Area by the Government of Canada and the area where the pipe would discharge effluent is home to several Federal marine refuges.

“This project clearly belongs under Federal jurisdiction and a Federal Environmental Assessment should be required. Our organizations have retained legal counsel and environmental consultants to inform us on this process,” according to PEIFA President Bobby Jenkins.

The Federal and Provincial governments are obligated to consult and accommodate with First Nations on natural resource projects. In 2016, the Provincial Court of Nova Scotia found that the current effluent treatment and disposal system at Abercrombie Point Mill unjustly pollutes Pictou Landing First Nation communities and traditional fishing grounds at Boat Harbour.

“That the proposed alternative to Boat Harbour merely shifts the burden of pollution to Northumberland Strait is unacceptable. The discharge pipe system would be a clear violation of the spirit and substance of the commitments made by the Government of Nova Scotia” says Chief Andrea Paul of the Pictou Landing First Nation.

Federal Environment and Climate Change Minister Catherine McKenna, Federal Fisheries and Oceans Minister Dominic LeBlanc, Nova Scotia Environment Minister Iain Rankin, and Nova Scotia Fisheries and Aquaculture Minister Keith Colwell must conduct a more fulsome assessment of the options for disposing effluent from Abercrombie Point Mill. Land-based treatment and disposal systems are available and are a more appropriate solution.

“We strongly support the jobs provided by Northern Pulp, and by Abercrombie Point Mill specifically. However, the fisheries operating in Northumberland Strait are also a crucial Atlantic Canada industry. Using a land-based treatment and disposal system at Abercrombie Point Mill is the only way to both create jobs at the Mill and safeguard the health of Atlantic Canada’s key fisheries” according to MFU President Carl Allen.

There are several Federal-Provincial infrastructure and economic development funds that Northern Pulp and the Government of Nova Scotia could draw on to develop an effluent treatment and disposal system at Abercrombie Point Mill that both serves the needs of Northern Pulp and protects Northumberland Strait. We hope that those options will be pursued.

For more information please contact;

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