



*Working for You*

April 9, 2018

**Attention: Members of Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly**

On behalf of fishermen throughout Nova Scotia, I am asking for your support to find a land-based solution to Northern Pulp's waste disposal that does not put the fishing industry at risk. I ask you to seriously consider the risks associated with Northern Pulp's proposed new treatment facility, that would discharge 70-90 million litres of treated, yet still harmful, pulp effluent every day into the Northumberland Strait.

A Federal government study recently concluded that even when meeting federal regulations, 70% of pulp mills in Canada continue to have harmful effects on aquatic life and habitat, and 55% are having harmful effects on the larger environment.

The Northumberland Strait is a rich and vital fishing ground. As Canada's number one seafood exporter, our province's two-billion dollar seafood industry is built on the reputation of seafood harvested from clean, cold, pristine waters off our province's rugged coastline. Our industry provides spin-off jobs in many sectors, and is vital to our coastal communities. We buy local, and our profits are spent locally.

From December to March, our working group, representing over 3000 fishermen from Nova Scotia, PEI and New Brunswick, along with Pictou Landing First Nation, met with Northern Pulp in the hope of finding a solution that was mutually beneficial to both industries.

To our surprise, mill officials insist that there is no fishing in the area of the pipe, despite being informed repeatedly that the area is fished for lobster, scallops, herring, mackerel, tuna and other species. Mill officials and their consultants provided no hard science on the impact on fisheries and fish habitat, yet insist that discharge into the Northumberland Strait is their only option.

Northern Pulp appears satisfied to have the fishing industry assume 100% of the risk of their proposed new treatment facility. The indemnity agreement in place between the government and the mill holds Northern Pulp harmless for any damage caused to the environment or to other industries, leaving all risk on the fisherman and taxpayers of Nova Scotia.

We encourage you to look beyond NP's easy assurances that everything will be fine.

PEI legislators were well informed and asked hard questions to Northern Pulp officials at a hearing before the Standing Committee on Fisheries and Agriculture. We recommend that you watch and listen to Northern Pulp's responses and see how convincing you find them.

We have attached two fact sheets prepared by Friends of the Northumberland Strait that provide additional information on the negative impact Northern Pulp's proposed effluent pipe could have on the fisheries if it is permitted to proceed. We hope you will consider the science and the facts, and learn more about how much is at stake for the fishing industry, our coastal communities, and our province's economy.

We thank you for your attention to this very important matter. It is not too late for the Nova Scotia government to avoid another costly mistake in dealing with pulp effluent. We hope you will support the fishermen's call for No Pipe in the Northumberland Strait. We are happy to meet and provide additional information to you or your caucus.

To avoid any misunderstanding, fishermen fully support the closure and clean-up of Boat Harbour by January 30, 2020.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron Heighton", written over a horizontal line.

**Ronald Heighton**  
**President**  
**Northumberland Fishermen's Association**