

## STANDING FISH PRICE-SETTING PANEL

### SQUID FISHERY – 2008

By notice dated the 13<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2008, the Panel advised that collective agreements binding on all processors in the Province that process the species squid, must be in effect by August 8, 2008. In the absence of such binding agreements, the Panel advised that a hearing with respect to price and conditions of sale for the species squid would be held at 2:00pm on Tuesday, August 12, 2008 at the Labour Relations Board Hearings Room, Beothuck Building, 20 Crosbie Place, St. John's, NL.

The Panel further advised that it had been informed by the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture that the Seafood Processors of Newfoundland and Labrador (hereinafter referred to as "SPONL", represented processors that process the majority percentage of the species squid. The Panel further advised that should the hearings proceed for the species squid, the parties appearing before the Panel will be the Fish, Food and Allied Workers (hereinafter referred to as "FFAW) and SPONL. No other submissions would be accepted by the Panel and should any representative of this species wish to attend the hearing, concurrence from both parties to the collective bargaining process must be obtained.

At the request of the parties to the negotiations, the hearing was postponed to a later, but unspecified date. On the August 21, 2008, SPONL advised the FFAW and the Panel's facilitator that it would not participate further in negotiations for the species squid.

The Panel issued a notice to all processors of the species squid and the FFAW on August 22, 2008, advising that in the absence of binding collective agreements, the Panel would convene its hearing on the species squid at 2:00 pm, on Thursday, August 28, 2008, at the Labour Relations Board Hearings Room. The notice advised that the hearing would be conducted pursuant to Section 19.9 of the *Fishing Industry Collective Bargaining Act*. All parties having an interest could make representation on price and conditions of sale for the species squid. On the withdrawal of SPONL from the negotiations and in the absence of a majority processors organization the Panel wanted to ensure that all processors would have an opportunity to appear before the Panel and provide submissions or make representations with respect to the price and conditions of sale for the species squid.

The Panel convened its Hearing on Squid at 2:00 pm at the Labour Relations Board Hearings Room. The only party to appear before the Panel and file a written submission (copy attached) was the FFAW. The FFAW made a brief presentation in support of its position.

The Panel notes that no processor or processors organization made any submission or presentation to the Panel with respect to price or conditions of sale for the species squid.

**The Issues:**

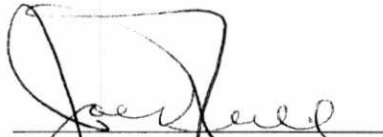
As the Panel has noted in previous reports, squid is used primarily as bait for the crab fishery, the requirements for which are approximately 6000 mt. For the past two seasons the Panel has confirmed a price of 15 cents per pound for round squid and 30 cents per pound for tubed squid. Landings in recent years have been minimal, only exceeding 6000 mt in 2006. The low landings and the lack of squid for export markets is reflected in the lack of interest or response by processors in negotiating squid prices. As the FFAW notes in its submission: "...the price that squid sells for in the fall is a transfer price...". The FFAW proposed no change in prices for round or tubed squid for the 2008 squid fishery.

**Decision of the Panel:**


It is the decision of the Panel that the minimum price for the species squid for 2008 as of the 1<sup>st</sup> day of September, 2008, will be 15 cents a pound for round squid and 30 cents a pound for tubed squid. These prices and other matters agreed upon between processors and the FFAW will constitute the collective agreement(s) with respect to Squid for 2008.

By virtue of the Act, the prices and Collective Agreement(s) will be binding on all processors of squid within the Province.

Dated at St. John's this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of September, 2008.

  
JOSEPH P. O'NEILL

  
BILL WELLS

  
MAX SHORT