

June 2, 2026

Honourable Loyola O'Driscoll
Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
Via email – faminister@gov.nl.ca

Honourable Mike Goosney
Minister of Labour
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
Via email – gsinfo@gov.nl.ca

Dear Ministers,

RE: Standing Fish Price-Setting Panel – Minimum Whelk price 2026

I write on behalf of the Standing Fish Price-Setting Panel (the “Panel”). In accordance with section 19.11 (1) of the *Fishing Industry Collective Bargaining Act* (the “Act”), the Panel conducted a hearing into the price of Whelk for the 2026 fishing season. We received submissions from both FFAW and Association of Seafood Producers.

We note that this is the first time the parties have come to the panel for a hearing into the price and conditions of sale of Whelk. In general, Whelk has had a floating price as negotiated by processor and harvester. There has not been a collective agreement or grading regime in place for this species in the past. The Panel has commended the parties for their cooperation in successfully negotiating the terms and conditions of a collective agreement on this species for the first time, and for reaching an agreement on dockside grading for this species. The parties are also commended for having made further commitments to each other with respect to in-season communication. They have also agreed to jointly request from DFA a market report to inform their 2027 negotiations.

The only item in dispute at our hearing remained the minimum price to be paid to harvesters for Whelk for the 2026 season. At the hearing, the parties and the panel agreed that the panel’s decision will be in effect for the 2026 season on a without precedent basis, not to be used as a precedent for future seasons or in future hearings. In accordance with the Act, the Panel is to provide the Minister with the price and conditions of sale of Whelk no later than today’s date.

Due to the paucity of market information available on this species, questions surrounding enforcement of regulations on Cadmium levels on imports by certain countries, and ongoing concerns with seafood tariffs in China, among other things, the Panel has accepted the price proposed by Association of Seafood Producers, being \$1.10 / lb. All other conditions of sale are as negotiated and agreed to by the parties. Our more detailed reasons for this decision will follow in due course.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sheilagh M. Murphy".

Sheilagh M. Murphy, K.C.
Chairperson, SFPSP

cc. Brian Vallis, Earle McCurdy, Nicole Chislett, Susan Whitten