

February 2, 2024

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The Honourable Diane Lebouthillier, P.C., M.P.  
Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard  
Fisheries and Oceans Canada, 200 Kent Street  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0E6  
[min@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:min@dfo-mpo.gc.ca)

Dear Minister Lebouthillier:

I am writing to follow up on our recent meeting in St. John's where we discussed fishery and aquaculture issues that are important to Newfoundland and Labrador. I acknowledge your recent correspondence regarding the input provided by the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador on a new access and allocation regime for the re-opening of a commercial Redfish fishery in Unit 1.

At our meeting we discussed the need for fair and equitable treatment for Newfoundland and Labrador in all federal fisheries and aquaculture decisions impacting harvesters and processors in this province. The re-opening of the Unit 1 Redfish fishery presented an opportunity to ensure Newfoundland and Labrador received a fair share of the allocation based on its historical attachment to the Redfish fishery and the long-standing principle of adjacency in fisheries management decisions. I am very disappointed that the provincial allocation for Newfoundland and Labrador did not increase to reflect these principles. Officials from my department will be actively engaged in the Redfish Advisory Committee to ensure our interests are represented as this exciting restart to the Redfish fishery in Unit 1 unfolds.

The Province supports a share of the allocation being provided for Indigenous peoples and shrimp harvesters. The announced reduction in Total Allowable Catch for Gulf shrimp is of great concern for shrimp harvesters in our province. I appreciate the intent of the 10% Redfish allocation for shrimp harvesters to help alleviate some of the impact of the Total Allowable Catch reduction. But given the number of harvesters who have licences for Shrimp Fishing Area 8, I am requesting your immediate consideration of an additional increase of the allocation impacted by the decline in the shrimp resource supplemented by a buyback program for harvesters who are able to leave the industry. This has an added benefit for the remaining harvesters who would have access to a greater share of the remaining quota.

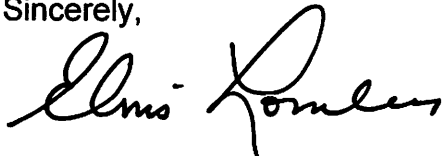
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As the Minister of Fisheries, Forestry, and Agriculture, I am committed to working with you to advance our common goals. At our meeting we talked about our shared vision, the importance of the fishery to sustaining the way of life of rural communities and families. As I stated in our meeting, which I think bears repeating, in order to do that it requires our fair share. I believe a positive response to my requests would support communities and families throughout Newfoundland and Labrador, and particularly those on the Great Northern Peninsula.

The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador will continue to collaborate with Fisheries and Oceans Canada as we work towards a modern, sustainably managed Redfish commercial fishery in the Gulf of St. Lawrence that will benefit the people and communities of our province.

I ask for your consideration of my requests and a timely response. As always, I am available to continue our discussions on this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elvis Loveless". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Elvis" being more prominent than the last name "Loveless".

**HONOURABLE ELVIS LOVELESS, MHA**  
District of Fortune Bay – Cape La Hune  
Minister

- c. Honourable Dr. Andrew Furey, Premier  
Honourable Gudie Hutchings, Minister of Rural Economic Development and  
Minister responsible for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency  
Honourable Krista Lynn Howell, Minister of Education