

MEDIA RELEASE

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UFCA responds to government's announced deal with First Nations in southwest Nova Scotia

HALIFAX, NS - The Unified Fisheries Conservation Alliance (UFCA) – an association of commercial fishery stakeholders – is supportive of the announcement made earlier today of an agreement between Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) and four First Nations communities in southwest Nova Scotia on the establishment of moderate livelihood fisheries in lobster fishing area (LFAs) 33, 34 and 35.

The agreement appears to be a cooperative approach toward commercial harvesting that aligns with one management regime for the fishery; specifically, that moderate livelihood fisheries fall under DFO's regulatory authority and science-based rules, follow existing seasons, and do not increase fishing pressure in a given LFA.

"We believe this is an important step in the right direction and are cautiously optimistic this model will have broader application, but there is still more work to be done," says Colin Sproul, President of the UFCA. "We are happy that this agreement will allow us to move forward, side by side, with the Kespukwitk indigenous fishers on the water of LFAs 33, 34 and 35 this fall."

Sproul adds: "The UFCA has always acknowledged the importance of cooperation with Indigenous communities, and that Indigenous fishermen have a right to fish for commercial, food, social and ceremonial purposes, but we will continue to vigorously defend that science-based rules must ultimately and clearly form part of an integrated set of regulations that effectively conserve fishery resources for generations to come and ensure a fair and respectful fishery for all."

For more information or to show your support of the UFCA, visit www.ufca.ca

About the United Fisheries Conservation Alliance

Unified Fisheries Conservation Alliance (UFCA) represents thousands of multi-species commercial fishermen and women, fishery associations and associated businesses from across Atlantic Canada. The UFCA was formed to bring together many participants in the Atlantic fishery to speak with one balanced, coordinated and moderate voice.

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Media Contact:

Colin Sproul, President

Unified Fisheries Conservation Alliance

ufcacontact@gmail.com