



Fisheries and Oceans
Canada

Pêches et Océans
Canada

Gulf Region
343 Université Avenue
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February 29, 2024

Robert H.P. Jenkins
President
P.E.I. Fishermen's Association
420 University Ave., Suite 102
Charlottetown, PE

Dear Robert Jenkins,

I am writing to inform you of the decision regarding the Prince Edward Island Fishermen's Association (PEIFA)'s proposal to change the fishing season opening day for Lobster Fishing Area (LFA) 26A-1.

After careful consideration of the proposal submitted by PEIFA on November 14, 2023, and the subsequent consultations with relevant stakeholders, including associations and Indigenous groups, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) has decided not to approve the requested change in 2024. The lobster season in LFA 26A-1 will commence on April 26th, consistent with the 2023 season.

The decision is based on the fact that maintaining the status quo in 2024 allows for an additional year of data to be collected and that an April 26 opening date will provide greater flexibility if weather conditions delay the start of the fishery.

We acknowledge the concerns raised by PEIFA and are willing to revisit the decision prior to the 2025 lobster fishing season. We encourage continued dialogue among fish harvesters in LFA 26A-1 to find mutually agreeable solutions that contribute to the sustainability and well-being of the lobster fishery in LFA 26A-1.

Thank you for your understanding, collaboration, and ongoing commitment to the sustainable management of lobster resources in the region. We remain open to further discussions to address any future concerns and ensure the prosperity of the lobster fishery.

Yours sincerely,

Marc LeCouffe
Regional Director, Fisheries and Harbour Management