



P.E.I. FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION LTD.

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April 28, 2022 - For immediate release

For over four years, the Prince Edward Island Fishermen's Association (PEIFA) has consistently advocated for the principle of one license in, one license out in relation to fishery access.

This principle has been a long-established process that ensures that commercial species remain protected and sustainable.

During this period the PEIFA, in addition to many other fishing organizations, have sought meaningful involvement in any discussions involving fishery access.

In October 2020 the PEIFA and Island First Nations did meet to discuss what potential requirements First Nations were seeking in terms of additional access to the fishery.

At this meeting, the PEIFA explained the importance of the one in one out principle and why it has worked well for industry since the Marshall decision.

It is unfortunate that important tripartite discussions between governments, fishing associations and First Nations have not taken place to discuss these requirements further.

We now have a situation where stakeholder groups are not in agreement on how access to the fishery can be achieved in a controlled and regulated manner.

The PEIFA does not support granting additional access to the fishery and expects the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) to fully enforce existing regulations.

The association strongly opposes conflict of any type and is frustrated this situation has evolved when workable solutions for all stakeholders could have been achieved.

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