

SUPPORT ASSISTANCE PROPOSAL IF NO SPRING LOBSTER SEASON

Gulf Region Industry Proposal

April, 2020

1. Extend Employment Insurance (EI) benefits for all Fishing industry seasonal workers (*i.e* Fishermen, crews and plant workers). As an example, a fisherman receiving \$576 per week and having his EI benefits ending soon, would have his EI automatically reactivate (renewed) for a supplementary 12-month period or until the next fishing season. This would amount to \$29,796 per 12 month period. Also, EI benefits could be boosted to increase revenues to fishermen (ex: this had been done during the cod fishery moratorium).

2. Differ payments and freeze interests on existing bank loans and provincial loan boards for 12 months.

3. Defer mortgage payments and freeze interests for 12 months through Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) and other mortgage insurers.

4. Defer 2019 income tax payments and freeze interests for 18 months.

5. Enable RRSP withdrawals tax free for 2020.

6. Special income tax credits for upcoming years (economic stimulus after crisis).

7. Interest-free loans in the form of lines of credit of up to \$200,000 to fishing enterprises of which 25% (up to \$50,000) would be eligible as a subsidy (tax free) if loan is repaid within 5 years.

8. Wage subsidy of 75% for fishing enterprises that may be able to fish other species this year if conditions apply (scallops, herring, etc.) and during next year's lobster fishing season.

9. Eliminate fishing license fees for 2020.

10. Emergency Seasonal Fishing Industry Allowance of up to 50% of a fishing enterprise's gross business income reported in 2019. Gross income from a qualifying fishing business includes self-employment income from personal fishing (T1-T2121) as well as fishing income from a Canadian-controlled private corporation (fishing corporation) controlled by the same fisher for the year 2019. This will provide income assistance to seasonal fishing workers who generate 100% of their fishing income within an extremely short window affected by Covid-19.