



FUNDY NORTH
Fishermen's Association



July 28, 2017

Fishing Industry Applauds Minister's Announcement

Dipper Harbour, NB & Ingalls Head, NB – Commercial fishermen from all across Canada gave Fisheries Minister Dominic LeBlanc a standing ovation when he announced his plans to enshrine the owner-operator policy in law. The announcement came on Wednesday night at a meeting of the Canadian Independent Fish Harvesters' Federation. Representatives from two southwest New Brunswick organizations, the Fundy North Fishermen's Association and the Grand Manan Fishermen's Association, were at the meeting in Western Shore, NS along with New Brunswick MPs Karen Ludwig and Alaina Lockhart who were there showing support for fishing communities.

The owner-operator and fleet separation policies protect the independent fishermen who are the backbone of the economy of coastal communities. The Canadian Independent Fish Harvesters' Federation has been lobbying for inclusion of these policies in Canada's Fisheries Act and in regulation for the past five years. Fundy North Fishermen's Association President and Dipper Harbour fisherman, Bradley Small, remarked on the significance of the Minister's announcement, "This will ensure that fish continues to be sold by the pound by the fishermen that caught them, not traded like a commodity by landlocked investors."

Minister LeBlanc is following in his father's footsteps. The first Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, the Honourable Romeo LeBlanc, was much loved by fishermen. Brian Guptill, president of the Grand Manan Fishermen's Association said, "The island of Grand Manan like many coastal communities depends on the fishery for its livelihood. My family viewed Romeo LeBlanc as a hero for fishermen and with this announcement his son is also proving to be a friend to real fishermen."

The Government of Canada's recognition of the importance of the small boat fishery is greatly appreciated by independent fishermen and their communities across Canada.

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