



Canadian Independent Fish Harvester's Federation praise historic owner-operator and fleet-separation regulations

The Canadian Independent Fish Harvester's Federation (CIFHF), Canada's largest commercial fishermen's organization, today praised the new owner-operator and fleet-separation regulations enacted by the Honourable Bernadette Jordan, Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard. CIFHF President Melanie Sonnenberg says the historic regulations brought in by Minister Bernadette Jordan are critical to the long-term sustainability of the fishery, and to ensuring vibrant, healthy coastal communities on Canada's Atlantic coast.

"The regulations enacted today by Minister Jordan, which maintain the independence of small-boat owner-operators and maintain a separation between the fish and fish processing sectors, are very welcome news to the independent fishermen of Canada's Atlantic coast. We thank Minister Jordan for her leadership."

Sonnenberg says the new regulations are yet another tribute to late former federal fisheries minister Roméo LeBlanc, who, in the mid-1970s, had a vision to 'Canadianize' the fishery by extending the fisheries jurisdiction to 200 miles off the coast. We need this vision extended to all of our coasts.

"Roméo LeBlanc was a visionary. He had a keen understanding that in order to have vibrant coastal communities, you had to protect the independent owner-operator fishermen who are the cornerstones of these communities. The regulations enacted today are a similar recognition of this very fact. With the new regulations, our owner-operators are in less danger of being absorbed by large companies whose corporate interests are more important than that of coastal communities."

Sonnenberg also recognizes the Honourable Dominic LeBlanc, former federal fisheries minister, for his leadership on the modernization of the *Fisheries Act*, which became law in June 2019. "Minister LeBlanc made history with his changes to the *Fisheries Act*, under which the new owner-operator and fleet-separation regulations fall. These changes will ensure that our fisheries and our environment are protected for generations to come. It is now incumbent upon the government to commit the resources necessary for their implementation," Sonnenberg said.

About us:

The Canadian Independent Fish Harvesters' Federation is the national advocacy voice for the people who harvest most of Canada's plentiful and valuable seafood. We are the people who produce most of Canada's lobster, crab, wild salmon, shrimp, and groundfish. Our seafood landings put Canada among the top fishing nations in the world and make us the single largest private sector employer in most coastal communities.

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