



## Canadian Independent Fish Harvesters calls for federal intervention in Mi'kmaq fisheries dispute

**October 28, 2020**

Everyone should feel safe on the water and in their communities. The Mi'kmaq fisheries dispute, and resulting violence, have captured public attention and garnered media headlines locally, nationally, and internationally. The Canadian Independent Fish Harvesters Federation (CIFHF) condemns the violence and property destruction arising from the Mi'kmaq fisheries dispute and laments that the situation has escalated in the way it has.

The CIFHF is calling for immediate intervention of the federal government in Mi'kmaq fisheries dispute. That means the federal government must bring all stakeholders to the table to discuss the regulated path forward for this fishery, with the common objective of preserving the long-term sustainability of our fisheries, our coastal communities, and our blue economy. Conservation must be at the forefront of decision-making, ensuring we protect our ocean ecosystems for generations to come.

The question of what constitutes a moderate livelihood fishery is an issue that has been developing since the Marshall decisions 21 years ago and it is fundamentally a question of fisheries management. The Marshall II decision makes clear that it is the responsibility of the federal government to properly regulate indigenous fisheries access, which include food, social and ceremonial as well as the commercial communal fisheries.

Over the past decades commercial fish harvesters and First Nations people have developed strong partnerships on both the East and West coast of Canada. This has been the result of open and respectful dialogue and we look forward to a future of continuing to build and strengthen these relationships.

### **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 our coastal communities.

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