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Historical Announcement for the Independent Owner Operator Fishery

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Yesterday's announcement by the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans on amendments to the Fisheries Act marks a very historical and important day in the fishing industry. "The inclusion of legal protection to the Owner Operator and Fleet Separation is great news for our coastal communities both here in New Brunswick and across Canada", said Brian Guptill, President of the Grand Manan Fishermen's Association.

The protection of inshore independent Owner Operators will ensure the viability of coastal communities along Canada's coastline.

"This announcement will protect the future of the fishery for generations to come", said Laurence Cook Chairman of the Grand Manan Fishermen's Association Lobster Sector. "We've seen foreign interests assume control of other fisheries across the country. We don't want that to be the future of Grand Manan!"

The addition of economic and social considerations and the preservation or promotion of license holders in the commercial inshore fisheries is extremely important to the future of the fishing industry in Canada. Coastal communities rely on the investments of the independent fish harvesters and their respective fishing operations. This announcement provides assurances that the Canadian resource will stay in the hands of Canadians.

"The work that has been accomplished through fish harvester organizations working together and presenting a united voice is evident in this announcement. We applaud Minister LeBlanc for his commitment to preserving the independence of the inshore fleet", said Brian Guptill.

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