

October 18, 2019

New Brunswick Salmon Council

Dear Members,

Thank you for your interest in our views on wild Atlantic salmon management in New Brunswick.

Canada is blessed with the world's longest coastline and fisheries that sustain communities on all of our coasts. Fishing is a deep-rooted part of our culture and economy, and people who depend on the fishing industry need a government that works with them to build a strong and sustainable future. Unfortunately, decades of Liberal and Conservative mismanagement have left our fisheries in a desperate situation: fish populations are declining and the health of our marine ecosystems are at risk, along with the coastal communities that depend on them.

Decades of Liberal and Conservative governments in Ottawa stood by as the fisheries collapsed – doing little to fight for our jobs or our communities. New Democrats have been out on the frontlines with the families and fisherfolk pushing for action. We're committed to a vision of strong coastal communities, sustainable fisheries and thriving marine and freshwater ecosystems. With the right choices today, we can protect our fisheries and the jobs they provide for generations to come – and make Canada a global leader in ocean and freshwater sustainability.

Our fisheries are still recovering, and we need to ensure that any new development won't put that sustainable recovery, and the jobs they sustain, at risk. On the West Coast, we've seen the potential impact that large-scale open-pen farming operations can have on the local marine environment and we need to ensure that we're taking a science-based approach to their oversight and management.

New Democrats recognize that the wellbeing of our communities is reliant upon the health of our marine and freshwater ecosystems. That's why we will invest in habitat restoration and the rebuilding of fish stocks, as well as in strengthening our response to oil spills and derelict vessels to better protect our coasts. At the same time, we will harness the potential of our coastline and spur jobs in Canada's blue economy through investments in research, ocean science and technology. To keep these jobs local we'll also protect, enshrine, and enforce the government's owner-operator and fleet separation policies, while ensuring that our small craft harbours get the upgrades they need for safety and resilience to climate change.

We know that aquaculture jobs are essential in many of our communities and we'll always have the backs of those workers. It's exactly because we're on the side of those workers that we're so focused on ensuring the long-term sustainability of the salmon industry as a whole. To ensure

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that sustainability, an NDP government would work with the provinces and First Nations to transition current open pit farms on the West Coast into land-based closed containment facilities. On our Atlantic coast, we'll always ensure that resource allocations in the fishery are guided by the principles of adjacency, historic dependence and sustainability, while also respecting Indigenous rights.

We've always been on the side of workers and fisherfolks and we'll always be in it for them. And as we work to grow our economy and invest in new, low-carbon jobs, we will ensure that we're always protecting our land, air, and water. Because families up and down our coasts know all too well what happens when governments choose to ignore the environment and ignore the workers. That's why we'll also implement a national freshwater strategy and work with the provinces and territories to protect our waterways under international agreements. We will also reverse the harmful changes brought in by the Conservatives, fully restore navigable waters protections for all of Canada's lakes and rivers, and invest in research to support freshwater protections.

We'll create a new Coastal Protection and Sustainable Fisheries Fund, backed with \$50 million a year in new investments, to support important efforts like removing dangerous derelicts, marine safety, and protecting important species like wild salmon. And we'll also take proactive steps to keep our waters clean by banning single-use plastics and empowering communities to make their own choices about anchorages.

In this election, Jagmeet Singh has pledged to defend Canada's coast - unlike Justin Trudeau and the Liberals - and with your support, he'll actually do it.

Thank you for this opportunity to share our views with you.

Sincerely,

Canada's NDP

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