

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Fish Harvesters Registration and Certification Board of Nova Scotia receives the green light to move forward

Yarmouth, NS – December 18, 2020 – The Fish Harvesters Registration and Certification Board of Nova Scotia (FHRCBNS) is an industry lead volunteer board in Nova Scotia. This organization is made up of industry volunteers in Nova Scotia who have come together to form an organization to help strengthen the capacity of the fishing industry. The primary goal of the FHRCBNS is to improve the capacity of fish harvesters, improve the image of work in the fishery, and to promote and strengthen a training and safety culture amongst fishermen.

The FHRCBNS is pleased to announce that the regulatory framework is now in place for industry to advance a registration and certification board for Nova Scotia's fish harvesters. The regulatory amendment was published in Gazette 2 on December 9, 2020. This was the final piece to be completed prior to establishment. "We appreciate the Fish Harvester Registration and Certification Board of Nova Scotia's ongoing dedication to advancing the fishing industry in Nova Scotia and are confident this Board will achieve their goals" said Doug Wentzell, Acting Regional Director General of Fisheries and Oceans Canada's Maritimes Region. "We also appreciate the Province of Nova Scotia's contribution in moving this forward. We will continue to work with the Board as they move towards implementation of an industry-led Fish Harvester registration, certification, and training program".

Back in May 2012, the Province of Nova Scotia via the Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture passed *An Act to Establish the Fish Harvesters Registration and Certification Board*. This act allowed for the establishment of a board that would focus on registration of fish harvesters, certification levels based on prior experience and training obtained and support for future training. "The finalization of the regulation amendments is an important milestone for the Fish Harvesters Registration and Certification Board of Nova Scotia. It recognizes the tireless efforts of our fishing industry to establish an industry-led registration and certification system for Nova Scotia fish harvesters, by Nova Scotia fish harvesters. We are excited to see the Board take this big step forward, and to be a part of this important endeavor for our fish harvesters." states Minister Keith Colwell, Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture.

"This is a great accomplishment for fish harvesters in Nova Scotia" states Norma Richardson – chair of the FHRCBNS and former president of the Eastern Shore Fisherman's Protective Association and the Eastern Fishermen's Federation. "When we started to explore this opportunity for fishermen back in 1991, we never thought it would take us close to 30 years to get to a place where we can

finally implement the program. This will give us the opportunity to recognize Nova Scotia fishermen as professionals and improve the image of our industry”

Plans are now underway to move from a planning stage to an implementation stage. Work has been ongoing and our goal is to have something ready for 2022.

Outreach activities are planned for the spring/summer of 2021. Information will be outlined as to how the program works and the benefits to industry.

For more information, feel free to visit us online at www.nsfishharvesters.ca or contact Program Director Lisa Fitzgerald (902)742-6167 or lisa@nsfsc.ca

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