

COMMUNITY NOTICE

October 3, 2019



Maw-lukutijik **Saqmaq**
Assembly of Nova Scotia
Mi'kmaw Chiefs

Mi'kmaq should be able to Fish for a Moderate Livelihood

Fishing is a fundamental part of the Mi'kmaq way of life since time immemorial. The Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaw Chiefs understands the frustrations of Mi'kmaq who are unable to earn a moderate livelihood from fishing, despite the Right being affirmed by the highest courts in the country.

“It has been over 20 years since the *Marshall* Decision, yet we haven't defined the terms, nor have we been able to come to the table with DFO to do so,” said Chief Terrance Paul, Assembly's Lead on Fisheries. “Our people want to fish and earn a moderate livelihood and they are tired of waiting.”

The Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia and the federal government's negotiations are underway for long-term plans of what a moderate livelihood will look like for the Mi'kmaw Nation. The Assembly wants to see movement from the government so that the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia have immediate access to the waters and resources now.

The Assembly is frustrated that, despite having over 20 years, the federal government has neither established regulations for a moderate livelihood fishery, nor have they engaged the Mi'kmaq in formal consultation on developing regulations.

Some Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq communities have developed their own moderate livelihood harvest plans, including rules for conservation, safety and accountability. The Assembly supports these community plans and their efforts that these communities are undertaking to affirm our Constitutional Right for a moderate livelihood fishery.

“We want community members, who want to fish for a moderate livelihood, to be able to do so without the fear of being charged or harassed,” said Chief Paul. “We will continue to build a process managed and governed by the Mi'kmaq, with Mi'kmaq rules, for a Moderate Livelihood Fishery. But, until this process is complete and our people are satisfied with what is developed, there needs to be a means for people to exercise their rights today.”

For additional information, please contact:

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Mi'kmaq Rights Initiative

Our Rights. Our Future.