



**ATLANTIC POLICY CONGRESS OF  
FIRST NATION CHIEFS SECRETARIAT**  
[www.apcfn.ca](http://www.apcfn.ca)

**SENT VIA FAX 1- (613) 992-1974**

May 3rd, 2010

The Honourable Gail Shea  
Minister of Fisheries and Oceans  
House of Commons  
Parliament Buildings, Wellington Street  
Ottawa, Ontario  
Canada K1A 0A6

**Re: Snow Crab Crisis & Beyond**

Dear Honourable Shea;

Other members of our First Nations delegation and I wish to express our sincere thanks for taking the time for you, your staff and officials to meet with us about this very serious and important issue. The meeting and the issues covered as we all noted are very important to all our communities impacted. We appreciate your commitment to work with us in a diligent, timely manner as DFO along with a number of your cabinet colleagues, other key Ministries and all appropriate Federal officials as needed to work on short and long term solutions to address the various concerns raised. As we noted, our First Nations fully support the conservation of all fishery resources for all future generations.

To assist in this effort I have tried to detail the specific items covered at our meeting and would ask for a complete update on efforts and results in three weeks at a specific meeting with all the 13 impacted First Nations communities as represented by the Chiefs at a central location perhaps Moncton, New Brunswick on May 21,2010.

**At the meeting we detailed the following items for work:**

- Advocate for specific revenue investments or compensation for FN impacted by the Snow Crab Crisis.
- Fully engage and develop a detailed Action Plan in one month for all possible programming and funding supports from DFO, DIAND, ACOA, Quebec Dev. and HRSDC programming and funding including; the DIAND announce the implementation of the Strategic Partnership initiative to demonstrate implementation of the new Federal Framework on Aboriginal Economic Framework and work with the FN in Atlantic and Quebec on a comprehensive Fishery Sector project.
- Ensure HRSDC specific measures include specific changes to the EI policy to allow FN fishers from Impacted FN to use last year earnings/employment record to be eligible for EI this year similar to specific measures done as part of the Lobster crisis last year implemented via DFO and HRSDC and other Federal Partners.

- Ensure HRSDC implement new supply sector programming to support the current Fishery Crisis and ongoing labour market needs for all aspect of the Atlantic FN Fishery.
- Support additional funding through the DFO Atlantic Integrated Commercial Fisheries strategy to support and fund additional FN work and costs to revise and update all FN business plans and strategies for Impacted FN in line with new realities in Snow Crab.
- Support other FN measures for greater job training, job creation and employment maintenance for impact Atlantic FN through ACOA and/or the Quebec Development Agency for Quebec FN.
- Propose and support additional CEAP Investments for FN Infrastructure to help improve the revenues for each of the impacted FN.

#### **Snow Crab and FN Long Term Strategy**

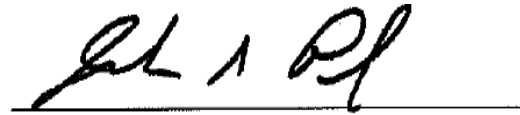
- The Federal government and industry must fully understand our FN access is based on the Marshall SCC decision of 1999 and the Communal licenses regime were only an interim step toward full treaty negotiations. Full implementation and full participation of our FN directly in the co-management of the entire Gulf fishery resources including Snow Crab. We require more additional access and direct investments to build capacity and progress.
- Development of a clear longer term of FN vision of the fishery and the full nature of FN involvement in all aspects including resource management and science consistent with FN traditional values toward sustainability and protection of resources for all future generations.
- Need for continued strengthening of FN capacity with ongoing improvement of FN governance and FN level business planning processes to ensure a long term sustainable future for all FN in the Snow Crab and all other aspects of the Atlantic fishery.
- Requirement for specific additional measures and investments through the DFO programming supports such as AICFS, AFS and ARROM funding.
- FN desire to continue to work closely with all governments and industry to participate and develop workable solutions and measures for the short term and long term.
- FN desire specific actions toward long term Snow Crab Fleet rationalization to reduce other No-FN fishers through various means in the existing industry and to increase the overall total FN share of the total Gulf Snow Crab resources in all Areas.
- Full disclosure and inclusion of all FN into all aspects of DFO resource management approaches and science efforts.

As we noted at the meeting, ongoing communication and dialogue is very important. We will work diligently with your staff and key officials at DFO to ensure there are no misunderstandings. Both Regional Chief Roger Augustine and I will be available for ongoing discussions as the work progresses on the Federal side and with all our First Nations. We will provide any information directly to all the impacted communities in a timely basis.

Please be assured our Chiefs will also work with the various provinces and this week on May 4<sup>th</sup>, our Chiefs will raise these important issues with Minister Strahl and ask for a speedy announcement of the Strategic Partnership Initiative which could be of assistance to the overall Atlantic FN fishery sector and the current Snow Crab Crisis. This effort could be a tangible actions oriented approach to active implementation in Atlantic Canada, Federal governments Aboriginal Economic Framework.

If you or staff should have any questions please contact myself or the Regional Chief Augustine directly.

Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JG Paul", is written over a horizontal line.

John G. Paul  
Executive Director

cc: The Honourable Chuck Strahl, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development  
The Honourable Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development  
The Honourable Keith Ashfield, Minister of the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency and Atlantic Gateway  
Minister Pierre Corbeil, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, Quebec  
All Chiefs & Tribal Organizations  
National Chief AFN, Shawn Atleo  
AFN Regional Chief Roger Augustine, NB/PEI  
AFN, Regional Chief, Rick Simon, NS/NF  
Ghislain Picard, AFN Régional Chef, Québec/Labrador