

# Eastern Nova Scotia 4VsW Management Board

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February 21, 2012

Honourable Keith Ashfield  
Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON  
K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Ashfield:

The Eastern Nova Scotia 4VsW Management Board has partnered through **shared stewardship** with Regional DFO (Halifax) for 12 years as a Community Management Board. We have managed the fishing NATO area 4VsW which is located along the Eastern Shore of Nova Scotia. We are comprised of 3 organizations, Halifax West Commercial Fishermen's Association, Eastern Shore Fisherman's Protective Association and Guysborough County Inshore Fishermen's Association. We have one paid staff member in the role of Fish Manager.

We admit that there are challenges coming but we as a Community Management Board are working towards a fair and transparent process for our fishermen. Unfortunately, that is not DFO Region and Ottawa's agenda. We are a community minded Management Board who represent over 500 license holders in Nova Scotia's Scotia Fundy Maritimes Region.

We believe that the owner operator/fleet separation policy is the only protection that the coastal communities and the independent inshore fishermen have to ensure that **big business** does not dominate the Atlantic Canada fishing industry.

Kevin Stringer and David Balfour attended the Scotia Fundy Roundtable meeting in Dartmouth January 16<sup>th</sup> and threw a bomb at the industry. They then proceeded to tell us we only had 6 weeks to send a response. The modernization document is very complex and is not intended to be understood by fishermen or their representatives. All we heard was buzz words and motherhood sediments. Not once did we hear that the owner operator/fleet separation policy will remain in place and not once did we hear or read anything about coastal communities.

Mr. Minister it is **NOT** acceptable the timeline given to our industry to respond to your vision of modernization. It is **NOT** acceptable to not include owner operator/fleet separation policy in the new modernization of the fishery. It is incumbent on to you Mr. Minister to ensure that the process to modernize the fishery includes: transparency, trust, accountability and respect to all of the fishing industry.

We, the ENS 4VsW Management Board support the formation of a joint task force for our industry to engage with DFO towards a modernized fishery for the future that **includes independent inshore fishermen and an improved owner operator/fleet separation policy.**

Respectfully,

Patrick Gray/Chair  
ENS 4VsW Management Board

CC Kevin Stringer  
David Balfour  
Faith Scattolon  
Stefan Leslie  
Peter Stoffer  
Fin Donnelly  
Peter MacKay  
Bob Rae  
Sterling Belliveau