



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **NL aquaculture sector welcomes support from Conservative Leader Poilievre and MP Small for coastal and rural jobs**

The Newfoundland and Labrador Aquaculture Industry Association welcomed the comments made by conservative leader Pierre Poilievre and MP Clifford Small to not continue the Trudeau government's approach to Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and National Marine Conservation Areas (NMCAs) that threaten current and future economic growth on the south coast of Newfoundland.

Poilievre and Small both made the commitment at a rally in St. John's Tuesday night as part of their promise not to stop fishing, mining or oil production.

Poilievre said that the marine protected areas "seems to be designed to shut down whole swaths of areas from harvesters, and this can be devastating for the sector. I will not allow marine protected areas to be used to shut down fisheries."

Natural resource sector companies and their employees, associated service and supply companies and their employees, and other industry stakeholders in Newfoundland and Labrador are very concerned about the impending decline of our sectors due to regulatory uncertainty.

As currently proposed, this NMCA would transfer jurisdiction of a significant area of south coast NL waters to the federal government, limiting Newfoundland and Labrador's ability to chart its own course in its own waters.

The aquaculture industry employs over 17,000 Canadians, adds over \$5.3 billion to the Canadian economy annually and plays an essential role in our national food security, accounting for 21% of Canada's total seafood production in 2023.

We look forward to hearing from the other parties and local candidates on this important issue and hope they will also support economic growth and jobs in our rural and coastal communities.

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