

Northern Harvest Statement September 23, 2019

Northern Harvest Sea Farms has experienced an environmental event involving prolonged high water temperatures at some sea sites on the south coast of Newfoundland. The high temperatures created low oxygen conditions that resulted in fish mortalities.

In response, the immediate removal of all mortalities and the harvest of remaining fish at these sea sites began. While information related to mortality and fish harvest statistics are unavailable at this time as the information is still being collected, we do want to assure all stakeholders of the following:

- Northern Harvest's continuous fish health monitoring protocols made it possible to take immediate action as soon as the issue was observed, and there was no loss of containment.
- The fish mortalities pose no harm to humans, the environment, nor other fish or shellfish species.
- Our company has added significant resources to address this matter and is working at maximum effort, which includes employing all available dive teams in both Newfoundland and Labrador and dive teams from New Brunswick, and using three large purse seiners.

Much as in agriculture, where frost and drought can impact crops, so too in aquaculture can fish be affected by environmental events like superchill and high water temperatures. We, like other farmers, are accustomed to dealing with the effects of climate change and will continue to adapt to our changing environment. The superchill event in 2014 is a prior example of a temperature event affecting aquaculture sites. That event caused significant mortalities, and did not impact fishing activity or the environment.

Northern Harvest Would like to note that it has continuously engaged the FFAW on this matter. The FFAW did not receive "numerous reports" about salmon mortalities, it received direct updates from Northern Harvest as the situation unfolded. The senior management of the company met personally with FFAW officials earlier this month, and during the meeting the cause of

the mortalities and our response with respect to removing them was explained. A commitment was made at the meeting to continue engaging with fisher representatives on a ongoing basis on this matter, and the most recent correspondence updating the FFAW on this matter was September 20. This is in keeping with company practice to keep fishermen and other community stakeholders apprised of our activity, and continues the consultations we have carried out on a regular bases with fishers on our site operations.

With respect to FFAW President Keith Sullivan's curious statement that "the practices of open-net pen farming come with the potential for very serious, far-reaching impacts on the fishing industry in the area," Northern Harvest reminds Mr. Sullivan that:

- harvesters were consulted and engaged on the placement of all sea sites,
- that more than 100 of his own FFAW members work on Northern Harvest sea sites, and
- that many more FFAW members work in the plant in Harbour Breton processing Atlantic Salmon.

Northern Harvest views these FFAW workers as important partners in the communities in which we operate, and we are proud of the benefits we create together in rural Newfoundland and Labrador.

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