



Naturally Yours

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March 31, 2021

Mayor Amanda McDougall  
Acting President  
Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities  
Suite 1304  
1809 Barrington Street  
Halifax, NS B3J 3K8

Dear Acting President McDougall:

This letter is regarding the upcoming review of the Georges Bank Moratorium. We understand that the decision on whether the moratorium will be renewed is to be made by December, 2022.

At the March 8, 2021 Council meeting, Council unanimously made a motion to support the extension for at least another 10 years, if not permanently.

As you are aware, the fishing industry is the economic backbone of Southwest Nova Scotia and contributes significantly to the Nova Scotia economy. Billions of dollars of lobster, scallop and ground fish landings come from Georges Bank. This industry is our coastal communities' economic mainstay which cannot be put at risk.

As vitally important is our ocean environment. This too must be protected as even a small oil spill would negatively impact the aquatic life and would be disastrous to both the environment and the fishing industry.

This Council is reaching out the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities to adopt the following resolution and to forward it to the Provincial Minister of Energy and Mines and the Federal Minister for the Department of Natural Resources. A united municipal voice on this issue is much more powerful than each individual voice.

### **Renewal of Georges Bank Offshore Oil & Gas Exploration and Drilling Moratorium**

*Whereas:*

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*1 The renewable fishery resources on Georges Bank are critically important to the social and economic wellbeing of Nova Scotia's coastal communities.*

*2. Georges Bank has strong and persistent circular currents and persistent upwelling in the water column which make the Bank remarkably biologically productive, but which also make the Bank much more susceptible to hydrocarbon pollution.*

*3. Georges Bank is vitally important to the seafood industry, being the largest private sector employer in the Province of Nova Scotia, generating more than 25,000 direct jobs and over 2 billion dollars in exported value each year.*

*4. The moratorium on exploration and drilling for oil and gas on Georges Bank is due to expire on December 31, 2022.*

*And Whereas:*

*The Minister of Energy and Mines is on record as stating that the Province intends to extend the moratorium beyond 2022;*

***The Federation of Nova Scotia Municipalities stands in support of Extending the Moratorium on oil and gas exploration on Georges Bank for a further period of at least 10 full years, namely, December 31, 2032, if not permanently.***

The Municipality would like to thank you in advance for considering taking this proposed resolution to your membership at your next AGM, a resolution we hope the membership will support to help protect the environment and our fishing industry, one that contributes substantially to our Province's economy. A united voice speaks volumes!

Sincerely,



Warden Penny Smith