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Attention Nova Scotia Fishermen's Associations:

Just a reminder of the upcoming NS Fisheries and Aquaculture Minister's Conference on Feb 5th and 6th (Best Western Chocolate Lake Halifax, NS). This annual event gives opportunity to all NS fishermen's associations to attend and participate. The agenda will provide updates on a number of items the department is working on along with hosting a safety panel of various government partners and agencies, suppliers and associations.

The second day of the conference will focus on the **Fish Harvesters Registration and Certification Board Act**. This Act is enabling legislation which would allow for the establishment of a board which would be responsible for registration and training of fishermen in Nova Scotia. A working group of industry association representatives from both the Maritimes and Gulf region assisted the Province in drafting the Act. At the 2012 Minister's Conference a mandate was given by industry present to take this to the next step and have the working group develop draft by-laws and governance policies in order to govern a future organization.

At the 2013 Minister's Conference the results of the working group will be shared through open forum and breakout sessions and it is hoped to get lots of feedback from industry present. Items that will be discussed are governance, structure, registration, criteria, funding, etc. We are hoping this will give industry an opportunity for input into this future organization.

If you would like to get involved further or would like to know more please feel free to contact us at any time. You can also check out our website to gain further information: <http://www.nsfsc.ca>

This is a positive step and will allow for an industry led registration and training system for fishermen in Nova Scotia. We look forward to seeing you at the Minister's Conference.

Best regards,

Lisa Fitzgerald