

Requests: 1. Honour the Boat Harbour Agreement,
2. No pulp effluent pipe in the Northumberland Strait

We live at Caribou River on the Northumberland Strait. Our home is fifty-five feet from the high tide level on the beach. We are retired. Our family, now three generations of us swim in this water all summer and our neighbours and vacationers do as well. I have a bachelor of science degree and own woodlots, and have attended woodlot management workshops and have helped organize farm woodlot management courses. We need to manage our forests in a more sustainable way as advocated in the Layhe Report. My father and uncles fished in the area and my cousins and neighbours now fish lobster, herring, tuna, mackerel and drag for scallops in this area of water.

Air pollution from the pulp mill also settle into the water and on the land. Linda Panno's article, March 7, 2019 in the Halifaxexaminer.ca sites the Ambient Air Quality study revealed high cancer causing air emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) that exceed EPA cancer-risk levels. The town of Pictou and area are often down wind and regularly receive the air pollution from the mill.

The area around where the proposed pipe is going is not deep and the surrounding vicinity has relatively shallow water, so the volume of salt water is not huge in comparison to the volume of pulp effluent. It is risky and it is not environmentally responsible and acceptable to dump large volumes of warm fresh water containing toxic pulp effluent in the midst of our rich fishing grounds. Tidal action will move the pollution east and west along the shore and bring it in toward land and lead to water pollution and pollution in near by beaches, bays, Caribou Harbour, Pictou Harbour, tidal inlets, tidal rivers, brooks and streams and salt marshes and wet lands. Public beaches on Caribou Island, Monroe's Island, Caribou Park and Waterside Park will be negatively effected.

Dr. Robert Macneill's letter in the Oct. 24, 2019 Truro Daily News states this toxic mix of pulp wood fines, warm fresh water, dioxins, furans and other toxic substances will float long distances east and west along the coasts poisoning the marine ecosystem.

Most of the micro life in salt water is near the water's surface. Lobster eggs and larva float to the top of the water where there will be a warm toxic mix of fresh water and pulp effluent. The micro salt aquatic life, including lobsters eggs and larva will die in this toxic environment.

The reputation of our seafood, is that it comes from clean, cool and unpolluted water. If this reputation lost, it will result in the loss of export markets for our Maritime seafood.

Phytoplankton and micro life in the salt water near the water surface will assimilate toxins and this will result in organic chemistry toxins that will build in concentration in larger flora and fauna on up the food chain. Phytoplankton produces the majority of the world's oxygen and is at the base of the food chain. Phytoplankton thrives in cool, salt water. Much of the plankton will be killed in the warm, toxic mix of pulp effluent and freshwater.

Beaches and bays will be polluted. Property owners, tourists and vacationers and the businesses in the communities will be negatively effected.

The Northern Pulp proposal should be rejected as it underestimates the risks. There most likely will be environmental damage that cannot be mitigated.

The information provided in the proposal does not prove there will be no adverse environmental, health and economic effects.

If the Minister of Environment and the Province of Nova Scotia are favoring approval of the proposal, they need to be mindful and aware that they are in a conflict of interest and therefore they should not approve the Northern Pulp proposal.

If you are favoring approval, the proposal should be handed over to the government of Canada for a thorough environmental assessment and the Province set aside. Issues regarding the health of Northumberland Strait and its fisheries affect and effect Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick as well as Nova Scotia and as such are a federal responsibility.

Sincerely, concerned local citizen and family

Sandy Patterson