



August 9, 2024

Minister Kent Smith, E.C.N.S  
Office of the Minister  
Fisheries and Aquaculture  
PO Box 2223, Halifax NS, B3J 3C4

Dear Minister Smith,

Thank you for your correspondence dated August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024, it was timely and gracious. At our most recent Council meeting, the following motion was passed unanimously.

*...To ask the Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture to work closer with residents that may be affected by the other 47 potential sites and prior to issuing these leases and achieve a balance between economic growth and protecting the stakeholders involved.*

A motion to pause the 6 that are already in the provincial application process was considered and defeated. The combination of these two decisions is a strong indication that Argyle supports the existing process of the 6 sites currently being considered for a lease. The Council has confidence that the process has sufficient opportunity for public comment. Council encourages the province to continue its efforts to ensure that residents can contact the province directly on their concerns anytime, and we certainly promote this where we can.

The approved motion is an understanding that we have time to re-assess stakeholder engagement on the remaining sites and should do so. Council sees an opportunity to re-engage with residents more thoughtfully.

Our public engagement approach prior to the April announcement was based on the provincial 8 factors in considering a lease. Reopening conversations with residents is likely to uncover local insight on existing recreational, navigation or other uses that would only aid the province in its decision when a second round of applications opens.

We are thankful that the province chose Argyle for this pilot project. Our objective was to provide another opportunity for our residents to make a living on the sea, and this program is a giant positive step in that direction. In approaching the remaining 47 sites, we believe that a provincially led engagement, supported by the municipality, may be more suitable to address residential concerns. This approach would lead to less confusion as to who has the legislative authority to consider next steps on the remaining sites.



We heard from many residents that were deep supporters of this initiative, and those with lingering concerns around the conflict it may cause with fishers or residents. A well-known fisher said it well, don't put the sea farmers and fishers at odds with each other. This sparked many internal ideas as to how to engage our community for future sites. We are a willing contributor in this work.

We request a meeting with you and/or your staff to openly discuss the possibilities to ensure that our residents and fishers are heard and considered in future site considerations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Danny Muise'.

Warden Danny Muise  
Municipality of Argyle