



Association of Inshore Fishermen of the Magdalen Islands

Grosse Ile, Québec
February 21, 2012

Mr. Keith Ashfield, minister
Minister of Fisheries and Oceans
House of Commons
Room 107, Confederation Building
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Subject: Management of the seal resource

Mr. Ashfield,

The Association of Inshore Fishermen of the Magdalen Islands emphasizes its support for the seal industry and demands that a resource management plan be immediately put into place.

According to the recent study of Drs O' Boyle and Sinclair, of the Bedford Institute of Oceanography confirms what fishermen and hunters have proclaimed for decades: the grey seal play a major role in the depletion of the cod and prevents this species from recovering. This study also follows simple logic since the herds of the harp and grey seal, from the 70's until today, rose respectively from 1.5 to 8 million and from 10 000 to 350 000. Globally, these two populations saw their consumption passing from 2 to 14 million tonnes of fish and seafood in the past decades.

So in this time of need please, with your colleagues from the ministries, both locally and internationally, help us in our every effort to ensure the return of this industry which shows great potential and, in turn, save what remains of our fishery resources.

Sincerely,

David Burke, president