

Date:

To: Christie Chute,
Manager, Marine Conservation Program
christie.chute@dfo-mpo.gc.ca, SABMPA-BSAZPM@dfo-mpo.gc.ca, fax: 1-613-990-4111,
phone: 1-613-818-6578

Re: Canada Gazette Part I, Vol. 150, No. 51 — December 17, 2016
St. Anns Bank Marine Protected Area Proposed Regulations

Dear Ms. Chute,

Many owner-operator fish harvesters in Eastern Cape Breton are fishing or have historically fished in the area covered by the St. Anns Bank proposed Marine Protected Area. These local fish harvesters are heavily affected by the proposed MPA, which covers over 15 per cent of their fishing grounds (4Vn) and yet, they were not properly consulted during the development period of the MPA.

I fully support the Government of Canada's effort to protect our marine and coastal waters through MPAs. I see this as an advantage for the inshore, sustainable fishery using low-impact fishing methods as most MPAs around the world favour these types of industry by excluding industrialized fishing and other environmentally destructive developments. However, the proposed regulations for the St. Anns Bank MPA fall short of that ideal.

The Proposed Regulations designate over 81% of the protected area as an exclusive no-fishing zone. The mentioned local fish harvesters use sustainable, low-impact fishing methods and need not be excluded from operating in much of the proposed MPA.

I suggest two changes to the proposed regulations:

- The management zones where our sustainable, low impact fisheries would be allowed, should be increased in size, and
- the pelagic fisheries (targeting tuna and swordfish) should be re-assessed and they should be allowed within the entire MPA, just as seal fishing is.

Respectfully yours,

Name (printed): _____

Mailing Address: _____

Signature: _____