

MEDIA RELEASE



Maw-lukutijik **Saqmaq**
Assembly of Nova Scotia
Mi'kmaq Chiefs

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 21, 2020

Over 200 Mi'kmaq Livelihood Harvesters' Traps Seized

In recent days, authorized Mi'kmaq community harvesters, from both Potlotek and Eskasoni Mi'kmaq Communities, have had over 200 legal traps seized by the Department of Fisheries & Oceans Conservation & Protection Officers in St. Peter's Bay. The seizure of these traps by local officers are without the authorization or authority of their Department or the Minister. This is unacceptable and unlawful.

The Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Chiefs, along with Potlotek and Eskasoni Chiefs and Councils, have demanded the return of seized traps immediately.

Harvesters in both these communities are seeking support through donations of lobster traps or funds to purchase lobster traps to replenish the stock for authorized harvesters to continue to fish for under their community's Netukulimk Livelihood Management Plans.

As reaffirmed in the 1999 *Marshall* Decision, the Netukulimk Livelihood Fishery is legal and we recognize and have heard that there are many Nova Scotians who want to support authorized Mi'kmaq Harvesters.

Physical donations can be dropped off to the Emergency Command Centre at the St. Peter's Canal in Cape Breton and monetary donations of support can be sent via email transfer to the community directly at: mlafford@potlotek.ca

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For more information contact:

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