

Ministry of  
Natural Resources

Ministère  
Richesses

des  
naturelles

Provincial Services Division  
Fish and Wildlife Services Branch  
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Division des services provinciaux  
Direction des services de gestion de la pêche et de la faune  
300, rue Water, C.P. 7000  
Peterborough (Ontario) K9J 8M5

March 11, 2013

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Dear \_\_\_\_\_:

I am pleased to announce that the Ministry of Natural Resources has reached a new five year agreement on commercial fishing with the Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation and Saugeen First Nation (Saugeen Ojibway Nation (SON)).

As expressed in the Ontario Provincial Court decision, R v. Jones and Nadjiwon (1993), the Saugeen Ojibway Nation has a right to fish for sustenance commercial purposes. This new agreement will provide clarity and certainty about how those rights shall be exercised.

Under the new agreement, the importance of protecting and conserving the fishery is recognized with the parties committing to ensuring that all commercial harvesting will take place in a sustainable manner, ensuring continued economic opportunities for members of the two First Nations. This will occur through clear processes for monitoring, assessment, information sharing, and determining sustainable harvest limits.

The specific waters where commercial fishing will occur are also identified. While the overall boundaries of the waters covered by the new agreement are unchanged, there are changes pertaining to fishing in Owen Sound and Colpoys Bay. We recognize that these areas and their fisheries are important to the Ontario anglers, First Nations, and other local stakeholders. Beginning April 26, 2013, the new agreement will enable the safe co-existence of commercial and recreational fishing throughout most of Owen Sound and Colpoys Bay. These activities will be closely monitored to ensure public safety and conservation, and an appropriate balance of the recreational and commercial use of the waters and fisheries resource.

Finally, the new agreement sets out a cooperative approach to ensure compliance is achieved.

I have attached a backgrounder that sets out the key elements of the new agreement in more detail. I welcome the opportunity to discuss the terms of the new agreement with you in more detail and discuss how we can work together to help ensure that First Nations and stakeholders continue to share these resources in a manner that encourages fairness, trust and cooperation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Morencie".

Michael J. Morencie  
Director, Fish and Wildlife Services Branch

Attachments: News Release – Fisheries Agreement for Saugeen Ojibway Nation  
Backgrounder – Fisheries Agreement for Saugeen Ojibway Nation