



## Commercial Fishing Safe Fishing Guidelines

### **Intent:**

The intent of the Safe Fishing Guidelines is to provide basic information to ensure commercial fishermen practice safe fishing during the present COVID-19 pandemic.

These Safe Practice Guidelines are basic in nature and it is fully understood that commercial fishermen taking part in fishing do so at their own risk and are fully responsible for any exposure or contact with the COVID-19 virus and for the food safety of their fish buying customers.

### **Fishing:**

While fishing it is advised that fishermen follow these basic fishing guidelines:

- Conduct a daily self-assessment to ensure that you don't have any symptoms of COVID-19. I.e. fever, new or existing cough, difficulty breathing, had contact with anyone who may have confirmed or probable COVID-19 or have travelled outside of Canada in last 14 days. If you answered yes to any of the above, it is advised you refrain from commercial fishing for your personal safety and for the safety of your fish buying customers.
- A link is provided below should you wish to check the latest COVID-19 symptoms:  
[http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/2019\\_reference\\_doc\\_symptoms.pdf](http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/2019_reference_doc_symptoms.pdf)
- If possible, conduct on water fishing with a member of your household, that you have been practicing social/physical distancing. Social/physical distancing is recommended to be 2 metres/6 feet from another person or the length of a fishing rod.
- If you cannot fish with a member of your household equip yourself with proper personal protective equipment (PPE). For the purpose of this guideline PPE refers to disposable gloves and a mask. This is at the expense of the fishermen.
- If you are concerned that you may have been exposed to or are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19 separate yourself from others and call one of the following:
  - Telehealth at 1-866-797-0000
  - Health Unit at 1-800-563-2808 and leave a message. They will call you back.
  - Or call your Primary Care Provider (Doctor or NP)
- If you need immediate medical attention, such as having severe difficulty breathing, call 911 and mention your symptoms.

### **Boat Launches:**

- If launching your vessel at a boat launch where others may be launching practice social/physical distancing.
- If social/physical distancing cannot be practiced wait till boat launch is less busy or equip yourself with proper PPE.

### **Ice Pick up at Fish Building:**

- Due to the present COVID-19 fishermen self-access to ice will not be allowed. Ice will be distributed by NFN staff as per the instructions at the fish building.
- This may include bag iced only service or one cooler of ice per boat (90-liter capacity). This is to minimize possible contact/exposure to COVID-19 to fishermen or NFN staff and to ensure that ice is available for all fishermen.
- Any disputes over ice may result in loss of access to ice. These steps are being put in place for the safety of fishermen/NFN staff and fairness to all fishermen.
- Access to ice will take place when deemed safe by the NFN Crisis Control Group.

### **Fish Food Safety:**

- As commercial fishermen are responsible for not only their own personal safety but for the safety of their fish buying customers, it is advisable that fishermen follow all safety information provided in these basic guidelines and follow stringent safety measures to ensure the safety of fish products being sold commercially.
- Follow strict hand washing when handling fish. Wash hands with warm water, apply soap, lather hands for 15 seconds, rinse hands thoroughly under warm water and dry hands with clean paper towel or hand towel. Repeat as necessary.
- It is advised that aprons, masks and disposable gloves be worn at all times while handling and processing fish.
- Practice Social/Physical distancing (2 metres/6 feet) when dealing with fish buying customers and wear PPE if this is not possible.

If you have any questions about these safe fishing guidelines, please contact:

Jeff McLeod, Natural Resources Manager  
Nipissing First Nation  
705-753-2050 ext. 1325 | [jeffm@nfn.ca](mailto:jeffm@nfn.ca)