

**\*NOTE: The information in this communication has been sent to all licensed seafood buyers in Nova Scotia\***

Dear Licensed Seafood Buyer,

**Re: Section 19 of the Nova Scotia *Fish Buyers' Licensing and Enforcement Regulations***

This notice is to bring to your attention Section 19 of the *Fish Buyers' Licensing and Enforcement Regulations* (the "Regulations") as it relates to the buying, selling, and possession of fish or fish products.

Pursuant to 19(1)(a) of the Regulations, no person shall buy, sell, or possess fish or fish products that have been illegally caught, cultured, raised, harvested or processed.

19(2) defines "illegally" for the purpose of clause 19(1)(a) as:

- without an appropriate licence issued either by Fisheries and Oceans Canada or the Department or without the appropriate authorization from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency;
- or in contravention of federal or Provincial legislation or regulations, including but not limited to legislation and regulations relating to size, season and quota

Furthermore, pursuant to 19(1)(b) of the Regulations, no person shall buy fish or fish products caught by a person who does not hold a valid commercial fishing licence issued by Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

In addition, pursuant to 19(1)(c) of the Regulations, no person shall buy fish or fish products caught pursuant to an aboriginal communal fishing licence issued for food, social and ceremonial purposes pursuant to the *Aboriginal Communal Fishing Licences Regulations* made under the *Fisheries Act* (Canada).

It is very important that all licensed fish buyers comply with the Regulations. Failure to do so could result in the amendment, suspension or termination of the buyers licence in question pursuant to sections 15 and 16 of the Regulations. Failure to comply with the Regulations could also lead to prosecution under section 110 of the *Fisheries and Coastal Resources Act*.

This information is intended to provide clarity on this important issue and to raise awareness of the Regulations in general. The complete Regulations may be found at <https://novascotia.ca/just/regulations/regs/fcrbuyer.htm>.