

March 1, 2023

Hon. Kelly Regan, MLA Bedford Basin
Chair of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts
One Government Place, 2nd Floor
1700 Granville Street
PO Box 2630 Station M
Halifax, NS B3J 3P7

Received LCO
March 1, 2023

Dear MLA Regan:

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with the Standing Committee on Public Accounts during the meeting on Wednesday, February 8, 2023. As a follow up to this meeting, I am pleased to offer additional information related to MLA Nolan Young's question about commercial fishing wharves and wharf space.

Infrastructure such as wharves managed under the Small Craft Harbour program are a federal responsibility managed by Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO). Private, non-Small Craft Harbour wharves are private enterprises and are responsible for managing their own infrastructure and capacities, most often as an organized port authority or harbour authority. Specific questions about wharf infrastructure would be best directed to DFO Small Craft Harbours or to the individual port/harbour authority, where applicable.

The Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture (NSDFA) recognizes the importance of this infrastructure to the commercial fishing industry and understands that there is a need for the infrastructure to support the growing demands of the industry and be able to adapt to capacity requirements and other changes in the future. As such, we are funding a \$225,000 project over two years (March 2022-March 2024) to assess critical, non-Small Craft Harbour coastal infrastructure which supports commercial fishing, aquaculture and seafood processing. This project will identify vulnerabilities of this infrastructure to the impacts of climate change and inform potential future investments in climate change adaptation projects. This work is ongoing and can be shared with you and the Committee upon its completion.

The Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture will continue to work with the federal government and industry to ensure that the infrastructure needed to undertake the important work of the commercial fishing industry is adequate to suit the needs of a modern and ever-changing fleet.

Sincerely,



April Howe
Deputy Minister