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## **URGENT NOTICE TO ALL FISHERS FOR 2024 ELVER SEASON**

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) Minister has decided not to renew or issue any elver fishery licences this year, effectively shutting down the elver commercial fishery for the 2024 season. **This includes access for Wolastoqey members.**

Despite all our efforts to have the communal commercial license renewed in 2024, and preparation to fish within the rules and regulations of the communal commercial license, the Minister is again penalizing our fishers for problems that have occurred in other areas.

**Given the closure, all fishers should refrain from fishing elvers in 2024.**

DFO is already aggressively arresting and pursuing charges against individuals fishing during the closure in Nova Scotia this season.

Continuing to fish for elvers anywhere during the close season may result in serious penalties including being arrested and charged by DFO officers. **Penalties may include seizure of gear, fines, and/or jail.**

Fishing during the close season also creates a serious risk of penalties if the fishing occurs within the area of the court order prohibiting elver fishing (court injunction). The injunction as a result of the lawsuit brought by commercial licence holder Mary Ann Holland is still in force even though the season is closed.

**Violating an injunction can have serious penalties.** You could face fines or jail time if a court finds that you violated an injunction by fishing in an area the injunction says is off-limits. In addition, anyone fishing in the area covered by the injunction could also be targeted in a lawsuit seeking damages by the commercial licence holder.

The areas covered by the injunction include:

- St. Croix River
- Dennis Stream (Upstream to the highway 1 bridge)
- Gallop Stream (Upstream to the highway 1 juncture)
- Waweig River (Upstream to a point 150 m upstream from the Boy Scout camp, including tributaries)
- Chamcook Stream (upstream to the Atlantic Salmon Federation building)
- Bocabec River (Upstream to the highway 1 juncture, including tributaries)
- Digdeguash River (Upstream to a point 50 m upstream from the old highway bridge)
- Magaguadavic River (Upstream to a point 50 m upstream from Digdeguash Falls)
- Pocologan River (Upstream to a point 50 m upstream from the old highway bridge)
- New River (Upstream to a point 200 m upstream from the highway 1 bridge)
- Lepreau River (Upstream to the highway 1 bridge)
- Little Lepreau River (Upstream to the New Brunswick Power Dam)
- Musquash River West (Upstream to the highway 1 bridge)
- Musquash River East (Upstream to the New Brunswick Power Plant)

**We are continuing to advocate strongly to DFO for a meeting with the Minister to discuss the urgent need for adequate access and proper implementation of our rights.**

Woliwon,  
Chief Shelley Sabattis