



BACKGROUNDER: Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation (FFMC) to Operate and Grow the New NWT Fish Processing Plant

While the construction of a new processing plant is a milestone in the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) revitalization strategy for the Great Slave Lake Fishery, steps are also being taken to rebuild the industry itself.

With the signing of its agreement with the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation (FFMC), the GNWT has initiated a transitional period of capacity building for the NWT's commercial fishing sector.

The goal is to return the management and operations of a vibrant and restored commercial fishing industry to the companies, organizations and fishers that make up its membership North and South of the Great Slave Lake.

In the immediate short term, more fish is needed for the new plant to maximize its production levels and financial returns to NWT fishers.

The GNWT is collaborating with fishers and stakeholders to enhance the business skills of the NWT Commercial Fishing Industry. Additionally, the GNWT is assisting current fishers in upgrading and modernizing their fleets and resources, while attracting new fishers to the NWT.

The Department of Industry Tourism and Investment will once-again sponsor training for residents to gain entry-level certification as deck hands for the upcoming fishing season.

Additionally, a receiving station will be established in Yellowknife to enable fishers North of the lake to transport fish to the Hay River plant.

Following the summer season, the GNWT will continue to work with fishers to also revitalize the Great Slave Lake's winter fishery.