

Opposition calls fish quota cuts concerning

Liberal Opposition Fisheries Critic Marshall Dean insisted the long-term impact of recent federal quota cuts on the province, and in particular the Northern Peninsula region, is cause for concern.

The Straits-White Bay North District MHA has urged provincial Fisheries Minister Clyde Jackman to stay vigilant and proactive to monitor and be ready to address the fall-out.

Mr. Dean raised the issue in the House of Assembly last week outlin-

ing the many aspects of the fishery crisis that has hit enterprises and communities especially hard.

He referred to a 28 per cent cut in the Gulf Shrimp quota in Area 6, a 40 per cent slash in the Northern Gulf Cod quota and the Gulf crab quota has been reduced by 63 per cent. Additionally, a shortened turbot fishery, dismal lobster and seal fisheries, together with low catch rates and prices have also dealt blows to the fishing industry.

"It is not good enough to have an

occasional meeting with the federal minister or a letter sent in her direction. In fact, I urge the government to immediately initiate a federal-provincial task force to monitor this whole situation and be ready to act to lessen hardship and strengthen coastal communities."

"The minister has to come to the realization that there is a crisis happening in our fishery now and deferring all action until the MOU gets worked out is not the best strategy."

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– Marshall Dean