



MEDIA RELEASE

Seafood processors say jeopardizing CETA wrong tactic

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(St. John's, NL) The Association of Seafood Producers (ASP) today expressed grave concerns that the province is pulling support for free trade talks generally, and CETA specifically.

“As a trading industry, we are compelled to speak on this. We do not support an anti-free trade message. We’re going the wrong way,” said Derek Butler, Executive Director of ASP.

Butler was reacting to statements from the provincial government saying the government is pulling support for the free trade agreement between Canada and Europe, and has pulled out of other trade talks.

The province says it is doing so because of the dispute around the terms of a \$400 million cost-shared federal provincial fund that was discussed as part of the Comprehensive Economic Trade Agreement (CETA), the free trade deal between Canada and the EU negotiated in 2013.

“As we said in December, we’ve been fighting EU tariffs for years now, and we should not put their removal in peril. Jeopardizing CETA – or freer trade generally - is not a solution,” said Butler.

Butler says the Association maintains its support for efforts to clarify the \$400 million industry fund, and encourages both levels of government to return to the table for talks on the fund parameters.

“We all recognize this fund could be an important opportunity,” says Butler, “but the solution to this dispute is at the table, not on twitter.”

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