

Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Press Release
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OTTAWA —

THIBAUT ANNOUNCES AGREEMENT-IN-PRINCIPLE WITH BURNT CHURCH

The Honourable Robert G. Thibault, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, today announced the signing of an agreement-in-principle between the Government of Canada and the Burnt Church First Nation that contains the key elements of a two-year comprehensive fisheries agreement.

The key elements set out in the agreement-in-principle include enhanced commercial fishery access for the band, training for fishers, the upgrading of commercial vessels, co-operative science projects, the development of a co-operative management capacity, and the establishment of a conservation protocol. As well, funding for community development initiatives will be provided.

The agreement-in-principle also provides for the band to conduct a limited food, social and ceremonial lobster fishery in the fall. Harvests of 25,000 pounds of lobster for food and 5,000 pounds for ceremonial purposes would be authorized. The fishery will be regulated by Fisheries and Oceans Canada and members of the Burnt Church First Nation to ensure adherence to conservation requirements and overall harvest levels. See the attached backgrounder for more details.

"I am very pleased to announce that we have reached this important agreement-in-principle with the Burnt Church First Nation," said Minister Thibault. "Not only will the band receive additional commercial fishery access and other benefits, but I believe reaching this consensus will be a positive development for the entire region. I am hopeful this agreement will mean peace on the water this fall in the Miramichi Bay."

The agreement with Burnt Church is the latest in a series of agreements signed between Fisheries and Oceans Canada and First Nations affected by the Supreme Court's Marshall decision. To date, the department has signed fisheries agreements with 30 of the 34 First Nations affected by the decision.

- [Statement by the Honourable Robert G. Thibault, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada: Update on fisheries affected by the Supreme Court's Marshall decision](#)
- [Key Elements of an Agreement-in-Principle for a Comprehensive Fisheries Agreement with Burnt Church](#)