

CBC News NB
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BURNT CHURCH, N.B. -

Trapped in tension

Burnt Church has rejected the latest government offer to end the on-going dispute over the lobster fishery in Miramichi Bay.

Chief Wilbur Dedam said late Monday that his band will fish under its own rules and has refused to sign an interim agreement.

Meanwhile, non-native fishermen in the area deny they destroyed any native lobster traps.

Last night 20 fishing boats showed up in an area where Burnt Church fishermen had set lobster traps. Lucie Breau, who runs a fishing business in nearby Neguac, says the commercial fishermen organized the flotilla last night to draw attention to their situation.

But Mi'kmaq fishermen at the Burnt Church reserve reacted angrily to the show of force and set up blockades. They insist a number of traps were cut, even though R-C-M-P officers say they didn't see any damage being done.