



April 22, 2020

To: Manitoba Fishery

Re: Covid 19 Impact on Spring Fishery

The Freshwater Fish Industry is navigating through uncharted territory as a result of the Covid 19 Pandemic. As the virus spread through the United States and Canada, governments at all levels were faced with the reality of introducing physical distancing measures that in hopes of flattening the curve and to ultimately limit the spread of the virus.

The result of the imposed Declaration's of Emergency has significantly impacted demand for Fish as restaurants and bars within the foodservice sector were forced to close. In addition, major supermarkets throughout both countries, closed fish and seafood counters. With no demand, we have been faced with the reality of having to stop the spring season harvest in the Great Lakes.

Once the Declaration's of Emergencies are lifted in the provinces and states that have impacted our markets, it is expected that the return of the Foodservice sector will be regulated with restrictions that may limit the amount of people within certain settings, which will limit demand of our products.

As of this moment, given the uncertainty of demand, it would be difficult to foresee any participation in a spring fishery in Manitoba until the reopening of the Foodservice and retail markets in a less or unrestricted environment as society tries to return to normality.

As the reality of a spring season without a fishery becomes more evident, we are in full support of the PCFM's efforts in encouraging government's assistance to the fishermen and fishing communities that will suffer from the disruption of income as a result of the Covid 19 impact.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ulysses Pratas", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Ulysses Pratas

Presteve Foods Ltd.