



For immediate release  
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## FRESHWATER FISH COMMITTED TO MANITOBA FISHERY

WINNIPEG – *We are here for fishers* – that is the message delivered today at Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation’s 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Public Meeting (FFMC). Freshwater’s Board and management team summarized last year’s financial and operating results and responded to questions raised by fishers and stakeholders.

A total final payment of \$3.5 million for the 2016/17 fiscal year has been distributed to nearly 1700 fishers in the inland fishery. The Corporation realized a total comprehensive income of \$3 million on sales revenue of \$75.8 million.

The meeting welcomed fishers from throughout the Corporation’s catchment– an area facing changes with the Province of Manitoba’s withdrawal from the *Freshwater Fish Marketing Act*, effective December 1, 2017. FFMC has prepared for the change in the industry by signing supply contracts with freshwater fish harvesters, agents and co-operatives to continue providing services where there is a demand. Today, FFMC reassured Manitoba fishers that it plans to continue supporting them, to reach agreements to continue purchasing their fish beyond December 1, 2017.

“We have been here for commercial fishers for 48 years and we will continue to support Manitoba fishers by purchasing, processing, and marketing their fish,” said Freshwater Fish Interim President Stan Lazar. “We have adjusted our operations to adapt to an open market environment and remain committed to engaging with fishers who want to continue working with us.”

Freshwater Fish provides vital services to fishers, particularly Indigenous fishers in northern Manitoba and the Northwest Territories (NWT), and it will continue to do so in the near-term, while a long-term plan is determined. Stakeholder engagement took place during the summer of 2017, and there will be future opportunities to provide feedback. A “What We Heard” report will be available publicly on the website of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

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