

Self-Isolation for Fishery Workers coming to Nova Scotia

The Public Health Order generally requires self-isolation for all fish harvesters and processing plant workers coming into Nova Scotia. This Fact Sheet was prepared to address some of the likely scenarios that cause fishery workers to come to Nova Scotia and explains how the Public Health Order applies.

1. Are seafood plant workers coming to NS from another province to work in seafood processing plants required to self isolate?

If workers enter Nova Scotia to work in seafood processing facilities, they must self isolate for 14 days unless they are healthy and cross the land border to enter the province on a regular, ongoing basis.

2. Are fish harvesters coming to Nova Scotia from another province required to self isolate?

Fish harvesters are required to self isolate upon entry into the province unless they:

- travel directly to the fishing vessel and remain at sea for a minimum 14 days, or
- stay on the fishing vessel and have required supplies brought to the vessel in a manner that complies with social distancing requirements.

A fish harvester or crew entering NS may stay at shore-based accommodations and treat the vessel and accommodations as a single unit. The harvesters must stay on the vessel or their accommodations with no contact with the broader community. All supplies (food, fuel, etc.) would need to be delivered for 14 days. The harvesters would be expected to follow all other self-isolation requirements.

Any out-of-province fish harvesters who plan to join a Nova Scotia-based crew or a crew who have already been self-isolating, are required to self-isolate for 14 days before they start to work, provided trips are anticipated to be less than 14 days.

3. I live in another province. My fishing vessel is in Nova Scotia. I want to enter Nova Scotia to get my vessel and leave. Do I have to self-isolate?

If the crew must stay in Nova Scotia to prepare the vessel, purchase supplies or interact with non-crew members, all crew members must self isolate for 14 days upon arrival. However, if all crew arrive in Nova Scotia and go directly to the vessel (no stops for supplies, etc.) and have all supplies delivered to the vessel, they do not have to self isolate.

4. Can fish harvesters from other provinces land at wharves in Nova Scotia to offload their catch and take on provisions?

Yes, but it must be done in a way that prevents contact with anyone off the boat. Crew must self isolate immediately if they exit the vessel. If all crewmembers stay on the vessel and have provisions delivered in a manner that complies with social distancing requirements, then they are not required to self-isolate.

5. I operate a fishing vessel and have crew members fly home to Nova Scotia after a crew change. Do they have to self quarantine upon entering Nova Scotia?

Yes. However, if crew members are transported directly between the fishing vessel and airplane and fly directly to Nova Scotia with no stops then self quarantine is not required.

6. Are workers arriving in Nova Scotia to provide essential supplies and services to the seafood industry required to self- isolate?

No. Those engaged in the movement of people or goods (i.e., transporting, supplies services) are exempt from the 14-day self-isolation.

7. I was told that if I fish offshore that I must self isolate upon returning to port. Is that true?

If the vessel did not land anywhere outside of Nova Scotia, or crew did not interact with people from off the boat while at sea, crew members are not required to self-isolate upon returning home.

8. Are Temporary Foreign Workers under the federal program allowed to enter Nova Scotia?

Yes, provided employers meet Federal and Provincial requirements including a 14-day isolation period. A protocol was developed for the sector and a plan must be submitted prior to bringing workers into the Province.

Perennia has been engaged to support farmers and processors in the seafood and agri-food sectors. Please contact Kyla at kpierik@perennia.ca for more information.