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## **News Release**

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# **Daylight Heist in Crab Fishery More Like Al Capone Than Robin Hood**

OTTAWA— “Fisheries Minister Thibault is acting more like Al Capone than Robin Hood in the Gulf of St. Lawrence snow crab dispute,” said John Cummins, M.P. (Delta-South Richmond).

The Liberal government has seized over 30 percent of the traditional snow crab fishermen’s allocation and transferred it to other user groups on a permanent basis. The only justification the Minister and area Liberal M.P.s can offer for this daylight heist is that the traditional crabbers are too “wealthy”.

In the eyes of the Minister a “wealthy” fisherman is one who at the end of the day shows a net profit on his operations. In some industries their success would be celebrated but not in a Liberal managed fishery where dependency is preferred.

Successful fisheries require guaranteed long term access to the resource. Fishermen can tolerate the usual ups and downs of the biomass but cannot cope with random reallocation of the catch by the Minister.

Since 1989 snow crab fishermen in Area 12 have invested close to \$10 million in scientific research and co-management of the resource. When need be they have shut down the fishery in order to protect the crab stocks their fishing operations relied upon.

The management of this fishery should be used as a model on which to stabilise and make profitable other fisheries in Atlantic Canada and elsewhere,” said Cummins. “It should not be under attack for its success.”

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