

**Northern Harvest Smolt Limited
Community Advisory - April 21, 2020**

Northern Harvest Smolt Limited advises residents in the Stephenville area that over the coming days they will see increased activity on the water and beaches near the Indian Head hatchery. Our staff are currently completing the collection of biofilter pieces that exited the facility via its effluent system, and the Port Authority is assisting in this matter.

These floating filters are used at the hatchery to keep water clean. They exited the facility due to a process error that took place during cleaning activity at the facility. When the biofilter pieces exited the facility they collected in the ice enclosed harbour at an opening in the ice near the hatchery. Staff were immediately deployed to collect these devices so that they could be returned to the facility. This collection effort quickly reclaimed all visible pieces, and the Port Authority was advised of the removal of these pieces from the area.

Spring thawing in the harbour has revealed there are remaining pieces in the area to be collected. Staff have been deployed to collect them, and out of an abundance of caution, the Port Authority has put a boom in place to ensure the containment and rapid collection of any remaining pieces. The Port Authority is also supplying additional human resources and collection equipment to expedite removal.

All pieces will be retrieved, cleaned, and eventually reinstalled in our system. All staff employed in the collection effort are following COVID-19 protocols, including social distancing. We appreciate the support of the Port Authority and area residents as we complete the remaining collection activity. We will continue collecting all remaining biofilter pieces until all are reclaimed, and will do so in as fast a manner as possible. We expect to have the matter fully resolved within days, though progress will be subject to weather, limitations created by COVID-19, and other such factors.

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