



FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION BERMUDA

Dear Ms. Young et al,

Your invite for 15 December 2022 is received and noted. As a matter of record, your most recent series of invites are also acknowledged.

It is my duty to advise and/or remind you that the membership of the Fishermen's Association Bermuda (FAB) has agreed to suspend participation in the Bermuda Ocean Prosperity Programme's current consultative process which includes but is not limited to Ocean Village meetings.

This was officially established at its most recent meeting on 01 December 2022.

We reiterate the following actions carried for and on our behalf:

- 10 November 2022 – a formal letter was sent via email and by hand to the Hon. Walter Roban, MP, Minister of Home Affairs (MOHA),
- 24 November 2022 – a press conference was held, complete with local media, at which time the President of the FAB clearly articulated the position of said Association,
- There have been separate discussions indicating same that have involved members of the CFC and/or the FAB between officials of the following:
 - MRB, DENR, BOPP
 - A desire to meet with the MOHA has been intimated during some of these interactions.

Whilst we appreciate that you are carrying out your duties as prescribed by the organization(s) that you represent, it is our responsibility to decline to your invite in this manner.

The FAB Executive Committee is considering the best course(s) of action going forward and will keep you apprised of any developments.

We acknowledge that there have been attempts to continue to ignore the stated position of the FAB and its members. This has been witnessed by individual members of the Fishermen's Association Bermuda who have been invited to separate exclusive meetings as recently as this week.

We also acknowledge the right of any member of FAB to engage with anyone of their choosing but have discouraged this until a change in process is achieved.

To reiterate our intent, on behalf of the membership of Fishermen's Association Bermuda, we are duty-bound to ensure that win-win-win solutions are achieved via a restructured, equitable consultative process related to the Bermuda Ocean Prosperity Programme proposals in their current form.

These solutions include, ***but are not limited to***:

- halting the *current* process in order to allow for two-way dialogue specifically between FAB and the Government of Bermuda ;
- a restructured meeting or series of meetings between representatives of a cross section of FAB Membership, Ministry level officials, government leaders, etc.

The fishermen who have attended previous meetings of the Commercial Fishers Ocean Village Group have found them to be lacking in meaningful, productive dialogue, and the representatives from DENR and WAITT have not indicated that they have sufficient authority to negotiate the substance of the MPA's under consideration.

To that end, the anticipated *end state* is the achievement of a viable 'way forward' that is mutually beneficial to all stakeholders.

Kind regards,

L. Gavin Lee

Secretary

for the President

Fishermen's Association Bermuda