

Government Lobby

There is a constant frustration with the government so called consultative process, where DFO and government imply the involvement of all interested parties and the public in the development of policy, or as in this case a new Fisheries Act. In the process which excludes a consolidated, consultative body that can hold government accountable to a workable process, it is not only likely that the interests, or interpretation of each representative is considered or respected, but unlikely that the consultation ever took place.

There is quite a difference in the time that one has to create policies, legislation and regulations, when it is a paid position and singularly focused. For the rest of us that have to work at other things to make a living, do not have funding, and are bombarded with rules, legislation, and policy, it is quite another matter. It is my thought that we MUST deal with these matters collectively and Cooperatively.

It is my understanding that most everyone, regardless of whether we are in one particular sector of the industry, or some sectors of habitat and or environmental protection or concern, we all want the same thing. The process of lobbying government has created little if any positive results for anyone, and it is time we changed this approach. I would define these same things as;

- ❑ protect and enhance habitat and resources.
- ❑ achieve a method for assessing these habitats and resources.
- ❑ develop a mechanism to share in both achieving these results and sharing in the benefits.
- ❑ Develop methods for accountability, and commitment for both government responsibility and others responsibility to achieve these results.

It is important for all of us to stay focused on the things that achieve the greatest results, rather than ineffective rules and regulations that achieve nothing more than frustration and mistrust. I for one would like to see all of us come together and dictate to government for the benefit or all, rather than have them dictate to us to the benefit of a few at the expense of the majority, and the resources, through this ineffective lobby process called consultation.

We need to be clear on what we are trying to achieve and be provided the time and funds to achieve it. This cannot be accomplished by the Government telling us we have to do more and more with less and less.

If anyone believes that we should consolidate all our interests, and take responsibility for holding government accountable collectively, I would appreciate you contacting me for further discussions.