

## Is This You?

It isn't my usual style to scold individuals for their particular views, on any subject, even subjects that might personally affect me, or others like myself. I believe that debate is necessary, there's a point where it crosses the line. This point is where someone else is deemed to represent me, and my views, when I disagree with most of what they say. How do I stop those that speak for me without my permission? The fact that I write the Minister of Fisheries, and he tells me to contact my representative, (is that you) if I do, he will continue to publish his opinions, and ignore mine. An example might be a majority vote from the Pacific Halibut Management Association's AGM last year, that requested their funds go to the Coalition towards legally opposing race-based fisheries. Though I would prefer that the money be returned to the license holder and they could make that choice on a personal bases, it is clear from that vote, that the people that supposedly represented, are in fact, not being properly represented by you.

One of the most serious things wrong with what you and others might see as a democratic process is that when someone is elected, they are elected to represent the people, and put forward their views; they are not elected to dictate.

I am total in favor of a process that encompasses all interested parties in debate. There is however, a great deal of difference between debate and lobby. When the government has the power to intact policy it becomes an issue of political clout. As the environmental organizations have the media attention they seem to have the clout. Ironically there is little public media published in support of debate.

In the January issue of Fisherman's Life the headlines. "SEA LEVEL RISE WILL FLOOD BC'S CAPITAL REGION The Sierra Club BC has released a map on its web site showing how a predicted sea level rise of 6 to 25 meters will eliminate significant parts of BC's capital regions district." It goes on to state. "A six-meter sea level rise caused by global warming will (*shouldn't this be could*) submerge expensive homes all along the Saanich peninsula shoreline" etc. etc. (*see article*) This type of misleading fear mongering is an example of the ridiculous approach to reality that many environmental organization uses to get public support to finance their own existence. There is no evidence that specifically supports any influence of human activity is the cause of global warming, though the response of findings of scientific documentation is politically bios to imply otherwise. I offer another opinion for those that care to explore. <http://splatto.net/blog/?p=379> I will forward a link to fishnet.

Though I am not apposed to a debate with the Sierra Club, as I believe that we may well have the same wish list, I am apposed to the misleading tactics, the support of creating a bureaucracy for fishers, for the purpose of accomplishing nothing. Accountability for counting does nothing to protect, or enhance our resources.

Again I point out that you have supported the Integrated Fishing Plan, you have accepted the fact that there is a concern for rockfish, and then you have supported raising the rockfish TAC by 20%. Without holding the government responsible to produce a

stock assessment to back it up. You have supported eliminating those with a dependence on a rockfish fishery, you have supported the principles that allow the blackmail of the hook and line fleet by the department, with closing fisheries if industry doesn't pay and design. You have supported the blackmail of industry, by those that would threaten the market place. You have supported sacrificing and burdening individuals that you represent, while doing nothing to hold anyone else accountable for their responsibility.

The BC Trawl fleet catches 40,000,000 to 60,000,000 lb of rockfish a year, dumping more fish than the hook and line fleet catches, as unmarketable, while the DFO's own recommendations for harvest levels are between 2% and 5%. If DFO believes that there are 1,000,000,000 (one billion pounds) of rockfish.

**WHY ARE YOU SUPPORTING THIS MASSIVE BUREACRATIC AND EXPENSIVE ROCKFISH CONSERVATION PROGRAM FOR THE PEOPLE YOU REPRESENT?**

**YOU DO NOT REPRESENT THE MEMBERS OF FISHING FOR FREEDOM**

I believe we need to protect all our resources, the habitat, the industry, the communities, the people of this province. There are a lot more progressive ways to do this than the road we are on. For those of you in whatever fishery, or not, that agree with me and don't feel that you are being properly represented, join in a different approach to change. Join Fishing For Freedom.

Gerald Dalum