

January 2, 2008

To PHMA,
Attention Jake Van der Heide

I received your letter of December the 5th 2007, “THE PHMA IS NOT SELLING OUT TO THE RECREATIONAL SECTOR!!!”

You are asking for input and I am going to offer it here once again, but it is my feeling that many of you that sit on the PHMA, or other advisory boards continually miss the point. I will try to deal with your letter in point form, to address your way of seeing it.

First of all I would like to make it clear that the 88% -12% is acceptable to my way of seeing it, as you put it. The recreational and commercial sectors however, must manage their catches through regulations to stay within these allocations.

Any form of transfer of access of Halibut from the commercial to other sectors through leasing or selling, is selling out the industry. Any form of expropriation or re allocation by DFO for the benefit of one at the expense of another, is unconstitutional. Those of you that are sleeping with DFO are unfaithful to what you used to cherish most.

The increase in the commercial sport sector vessels is contrary to policy of the commercial fleet reduction and of little benefit to the Canadian sports fishers. Individual sport fishing vessels now can and do, catch more than a single commercial troll vessel did.

Who benefits, who will not?

1. The commercial sport sector will be able to expand and probably be the ones that lease or purchase quota, and the non-commercial sport sector will not benefit as they will not get more access through commercial accommodation.
2. The investment sector of Halibut quota holders will likely receive a higher price from the commercial sport sector for both leasing and selling. The active commercial sector will lose access to both leasing and buying, as the sport sector will set the price for access.
3. A reallocation of Halibut or any other Groundfish from the commercial sector to the sport sector will result in a loss in product for the marketing and processing sector and access of product for the non-sport fishing Canadian citizens.
4. The precedent will be established for a similar transfer process of salmon and other commercial species access to the commercial sport sector. This will eliminate future opportunities in commercial fisheries for First Nations, and new entrees into the commercial sectors.
5. This process could equate to transfers to any or all sectors or interests, such as mortality rates in environmental destruction, or transfer from Canadian access to Alaska.

It should be clear to everyone that this is the most crucial time in the history of commercial fishing in British Columbia. We have allowed personal financial interest to drive us in the direction of a willingness to sell out the future of our fisheries and resources. We don't value the way of life and opportunities we had and took for granted. We are willing to sell our souls to the devil for personal short-term financial gain and remove the same opportunities we had for our future generations.

IT'S TIME TO SAY "NO". "NO" BILL C-32, "NO" MARKET-BASED MECHANISM, "NO" MORE INTEGRATED FISHING PLAN, "NO" MORE ALASKA INTERCEPTIONS OF CANADIAN BOUND SALMON, "NO" MORE OPEN PEN FISH FARMS, "NO" MORE EXTORTING YOUR FELLOW FISHERS AND "NO" MORE BOTTOM TRAWLING. LET'S JOIN TOGETHER AND REALLY DO SOMETHING TOGETHER ABOUT SAVING THIS INDUSTRY FOR THE FUTURE.

Gerald Dalum
Fishing For Freedom