

Lack of “ACT”tion

There seems to be a consensus of those that support Bill C 45 that this new fisheries act, bill C 45 will strengthen the powers of government in a manor that is a benefit to the resources and Industry. This being said, how much strength is needed.

It seems the government is constantly being criticized for lack of action. The government under the old act has the authority to protect habitat, fisheries resources, and encourage fisheries, in fact it is a requirement. There is little in the old act that prevents the government from any action in this regard. It is our opinion that the new fisheries act is designed to transfer responsibilities to industry, corporations and provincial authorities with the ability to transfer cost, reallocate these resources, and remove the powers of individual rights in protecting their investments and commitment to their existing but diminishing livelihood.

The government has not acted in good faith, as inaction to rehabilitate and enhance habitat has been absent in the policies of DFO. Government continues to fail in their financial commitment and continues to create policy to control access to the diminishing resources, with little or no policy to rehabilitate the essential habitat required to improve these resources.

It is our belief that if the government were committed to the responsibility to encourage fisheries they would be rehabilitating the habitat destruction caused by present and historical logging, mining and other industrial damage. If we increased the resources to historical levels there would not be the conflict that evolves between users for access to these diminishing resources.

Saying that, the logging and mining industry also has the right to exist, providing they live up to their responsibility in appropriate protection of habitat. It is again inaction in government that prevents development. Government has no process for responding to the needs of these industries in an economic time frame, or specifically laid out requirements. There is no checklist for industry to incorporate into development plans, for the protection of fish and their habitat. The new Bill C-45 is neither necessary nor required to formulate development policy.

Though government seems to think that passing bills is action. Not one fish spawns in the offices of DFO, or the parliament buildings.

Government is constantly giving more power to their bureaucracy. If we examined all the bureaucratic protective administration, we would see that they are developed to protect big business. The Federal Drug

Administration, Federal Trade Commission and the World Trade Organization, makes laws that protect and support the selling of drugs, and food that is unhealthy, addictive, and causes millions of deaths. There are above the law and protected from government intervention. These governmental agencies control what you eat and what you can take for your ailments, and the big food and drug business controls these agencies.

The Marine Stewardship Council will soon be certifying aquaculture products as organic. They are also planning on eco-labeling aquaculture products. These products are full of antibiotics and growth hormones all of which are unhealthy. It also takes nine pounds of natural organic fish product out of our oceans for every pound of salmon produced. Soon the Marine Stewardship Council and the World Trade Commission will be requiring chemicals to be added to all wild seafood products, or they will not be marketable, ONLY FARM SEAFOOD.

While some environmental organizations, are in fact beneficial to the well being, of the public and the well being of the world as a whole, there are many unanswered questions that surround the tactics and focus of some organizations. One would wonder why some of these organizations would choose to ignore the devastating effect of aquaculture to the natural environment, as well as the devastating effect of chemically treated seafood products on the health of humanity. Many of these organizations focus on reduction of natural renewable resources through intense infiltration of government agencies and lobbying governments, all the while ignoring the effects of aquaculture on the environment and the public.

Why is the fishing industry supporting this misleading process, rather than requiring accountability for the misleading information to which is used by these organizations? Where do these organizations spend their money? Where and from whom, does the funding from these organization come from? What have these organizations spent on habitat assessment or rehabilitation? Why are these organizations lobbying to create legislation that eliminates small manufacturing business, and resource-based business in favor of the major conglomerate of big business, in regulatory requirements that remove the economical viability of these small enterprises? Why does government support this process? Is this called rationalization?

Fishing For Freedom Members are apposed to Bill C-45.

Fishing For freedom members are opposed to the Integrated Groundfish fishery.

This new organization has over 80 members from the fishing community in British Columbia.

Gerald Dalum.

