

To the Standing Committee On Fisheries and Oceans:

As 2008 is the final year in the three year Groundfish Integrated Pilot Program, I would like to be provided the opportunity to appear before the Committee and give evidence in this programs failings, and the devastating effects it is having on the commercial fishing participants. These failings include:

- ❑ Millions of dollars in lost revenue, as conservative Total Allowable Catches are not attainable under the program.
- ❑ Corporate Control of fisheries access, as a result of complexities in quota transferring rules.
- ❑ Corporate control of distribution of quota, to fishers of choice.
- ❑ Processors agreeing to cover buy-catch, charging the fishing vessel for quota lease with no requirement or obligation to provide this quota, resulting in the fishers restricted from fishing.
- ❑ Vessels restricted from fishing as a result of unattainable quota access, under a willing buyer, willing seller rule.
- ❑ Accumulation of non-fishing quota holdings.
- ❑ Fishers restricted from fishing under the program as a result of inability to perform the complex and inefficient accountability, counting and handling process.
- ❑ No benefit to the resource as a result of this process.
- ❑ No equality between fishing sectors, as the Trawl Fleet of 63 vessels that catch 95% of the Groundfish, have non of the rules or requirements of the 400 vessels in the Hook and Line fleet, that catches less than 5%.
- ❑ Diminishing values and no market for vessels and licenses, as a result of this program.

I have been fishing for forty years and have an extensive background in fishing and fishing matters. I have served on many advisory boards, which include the Ministers Advisory Council, US Canada Treaty Advisory Council, and I have been president of three industry associations. I have also worked on various research and enhancement projects.

I trust that the Committee will provide me this opportunity.

Gerald Dalum

Fishing For Freedom