

Management Solutions

Management and Advisories,

The present management of DFO and the associated advisory systems has lacked consistency in their ability to achieve equity between users. This is demonstrated in the accumulation of fishing assets in the hands of fewer participants, and corporate control of fishing effort. The DFO has also demonstrated its inability to manage, through the continued decline of both fisheries resources and participants, contrary to Government policy and the Terms Of Union. It is therefore essential to change management in order to achieve a result based management regime that maximizes fisheries resources and fisheries participation.

1. An independent scientific based management organization be developed to achieve results, through an appropriate assessment and harvesting protocol that increases, or maintains, the abundance of Groundfish species and harvesters at maximum sustainable levels.
2. That this management organization be responsible for setting and enforcing Total Allowable Catches (TAC) in all species.
3. That this management organization be responsible for achieving a constant and equitable distribution process for access to Groundfish species.
4. That this management organization develops a method of protection of resources and participants, through development of protected areas and established fishing grounds.
5. This management organization develops a single advisory process that operates through a mechanism of transparency, accountability, and rules of order that provides consensus opportunities, for all industry and interested participants.
6. DFO assumes the role of statistical and data recording only, and that this information be accessible to the management organization.
7. The government must consult with this independent management organization for approval prior to instituting any international agreements that will adversely affect the ability of this organization to achieve pre-described results.
8. The government set time lines for achievement by this management organization that are realistic, and an accounting process that demonstrates results.
9. That this management organization uses General Accounting Principles (GAP) is managing the mechanism for all allocation, in a consistent and equitable distribution process. This is necessary for all participants to understand and predict future outcomes, and future opportunities for existing and new entries into the Fishing Industry.
10. This management organization institute a process of change in management that allows financial recoveries for those forced to invest in ineffective DFO management policy.

Groundfish:

Hook and Line

By-Catch of untargeted species is inevitable in the hook and line fishery, as in most fisheries. Although this by-catch can be minimized to some degree, it cannot totally be avoided. The present system of quota transfer by a willing buyer and a willing seller under the Integrated Fishing Plan is both expensive and unmanageable, as it provides a vehicle for extortion. The division of quota on equal catch division between license holders is unfair to those fishers that had a dependency on a particular fishery, and inconsistent with most other quota fisheries. Fisheries divisions on catch history alone, with randomly selected time criteria, are also inconsistent and remove fisher's opportunities to change fisheries for economic purpose without penalties. Therefore;

1. Any quota division or allocation should be restructured to reflect catch history, a consistent time criteria and vessel length in developing quota division policy.
2. That all species with a high mortality rate should be retained and delivered.
3. Those that have rockfish quota can apply this quota to their by-catch upon delivery.
4. Those that don't have quota will relinquish any fish to which they don't have quota.
5. The funds received from the sale of relinquished fish should go to the government treasury and an equal amount of funds be assigned from treasury to fund fisheries science under the direction of an independent industry appointed scientific body.
6. The TAC for a directed fishery is reduced to provide for this by-catch, relinquishment and adjusted each year, to accommodate staying within the total TAC.
7. The EM monitoring system stays in place and is paid for out of relinquishments.
8. There will be no temporary transfers of Groundfish quota, only permanent transfers.
9. All overages and incidental by-catch from species such as turbot skate, unmarketable sizes and mortalities be retained and a production plant be developed to utilize otherwise unmarketable or low value species.
10. One vessel is contracted for the purpose of scientific stock assessment under the direction of the independent scientific body.

Trawl Fishery

The trawl fishery has different rules than the hook and line and these rules have the capacity to undermine any benefit of other resource management and sustainability initiatives. Therefore it is essential to apply similar rules to this sector, for the benefit of the resource through equitable requirements. Due to the volume of incidental catch of species not initially targeted, the temporary transfer rule should be allowed but optional. Therefore

1. EM equipment is a requirement on all trawls vessels.

2. All fish should be sorted and no bags of fish dumped.
3. All species with a high mortality rate should be retained and delivered.
4. Undersized, unmarketable, or high mortality species must be retained.
5. All undersized, unmarketable or high mortality species be retained and delivered and a processing plant be developed to utilize these unmarketable species.
6. Where overages of a particular species are unavailable for transfer or are overpriced, the fisher has the option of relinquishing these species.
7. All relinquishments will come out of the total TAC.
8. The funds received from the sale of relinquishments goes to the Treasury and an equal amount of funds be assigned from the Treasury to fund management and science under the direction of an independent scientific body.
9. Trawl areas should be defined and protected and established as fishing grounds.
10. Other areas should be defined as no trawl areas.

Sport Fishery

The unrestrictive nature of the sport fishery, through bag limit only criteria, allows for increased participation in the sport fishing sector, which does not equate to, or restrict the total allowable harvest. In other words, by increasing the number of active sports fishers any bag limit has little effect on staying within an annual TAC. In fact there is no established TAC for sport fishers, which has the potential to undo any benefit achieved by other sectors to protect these ground fish resources. The difficulty in accountability in determining discards and mortalities in the sport fishery is restricted by the associated cost.

Though the sport fishery suggests and perhaps receives a higher value for a pound of fish than the commercial fishery, this value is in the experience and not in the pound of fish, otherwise, fish would be purchased from the commercial sector at much reduced costs. This sector also does not pay the required cost of accountability. Much of the sport fishing sector has been developed into another commercial industry, which implies that one commercial sector, can reallocate resources based strictly on economic benefits to a particular sector, from one sector to another. This process lacks morality and I would suggest is unconstitutional. Therefore:

1. A sport TAC in all Groundfish species be established to reflect the commercial historical dependency on these Groundfish resources and their availability for food, for the people of Canada.
2. A fish guiding operational license fee be established to reflect the number of operating vessels, to fund the deployment of personnel required to properly assess catch and mortality rates, associated with the Commercial Sport sector.
3. That a moratorium be placed on the Commercial Sport Sector expansion in both the number of vessels deployed and new entrants.
4. Canadian residential license fees are raised to fund personnel, and to provide accountability in the non-commercial sport fishery.

5. That there be no discards of any rockfish species in the sport sector, and when a bag limit in any one species is attained, no further Groundfish fishery be permitted.
6. When the sport fishing annual TAC of any Groundfish species is reached that there be a closure of all sport sector Groundfish fisheries.
7. That a fishing management body be developed to provide management policies that will appropriately reflect the representation of the Sport fishing community, the Commercial Sport Industry and the people of Canada in an equitable representation.
8. That foreign ownership of, or exclusive access to, Commercial Sport sector and Canadian fisheries resources be prohibited.
9. Where access to fisheries are in dispute between the people of Canada, and the Commercial Sport sector, that the priority be given to the people of Canada.
10. That an independent appointed scientific body manage all deployment of personnel, required and necessary to provide accountability in the sport sector.

First Nations

First nations people have been participating in the commercial fishery and their participation has decreased along with other Canadians as a result of government policies, or inactions. In the Commercial Fisheries all Canadians should be treated equally, and as such no treaty right supersedes equitable treatment between any citizens. Though under treaty rights there are special privileges, which will and should apply, to First Nation, in both sport and commercial fisheries, these privileges shouldn't apply. A process that provides special privileges to some First Nations is often at the expense of other First Nations, as well as other citizens. The rules and opportunities should apply equally to all Canadians and Commercial fisherman alike. The government has ignored these principles and as a result of turning a blind eye to aspects of equality, has resulted in not only the violations to this principle, but in accountability. In order to protect and enhance our resources, we must have mechanisms of accountability and it must be created in simplicity. First Nations are presently provided the opportunity of food fishing during commercial fishing activities through permit. Though this may seem inequitable, it more importantly removes the accountability of fisheries catch information. Therefore

1. No First Nations food fishing opportunity should be allowed while engaging in any Commercial or Sport fishing opportunity.
2. All fish caught in a commercial or sport fishery by First Nations should be monitored and under the same rules as all commercial and sport fisheries.
3. All food fish should be accounted under a monitoring process to validate all and any removals.
4. A TAC on food fish should be established to reflect the needs of and the population of the various First Nations.

5. This need should be accommodated through a process of transfer of relinquishments and food fishing permit access, and a mechanism for accountability be established.
6. Areas for First Nations only access to Groundfish resources should be established, which reflects isolated locations and the population of these communities needs for food.
7. All rights and privileges of access of First Nations for food and ceremonial purpose be utilized for consumption only, not trade or barter.
8. A mechanism be developed to increase First Nations participation in the commercial fishery to historical levels.
9. That all First Nations participation in commercial fisheries be under the same rules and regulations as all commercial license holders.
10. That all management of fisheries and settlement developments provide for a process of merging First Nations and the people of Canada, rather than continued segregation.

Gerald Dalum
Fishing For Freedom