

November 18, 2005

To the Honorable Geoff Regan,
Minister of Fisheries and Oceans

I would like to bring your attention to the process of establishing an IQF (Individual Quota Fishery) in the ZN Rockfish fishery.

I, being a ZN license holder and the owner of the 65 foot fishing vessel "Double Decker", will suffer the loss of my major fishery under the proposed ZN licensed quota system. This proposed Quota system serves only those that have speculated in ZN licenses and then lobbied politically through the advisory system, to achieve the highest value for those licenses. It is not designed for those that have and do participate in this fishery.

Inconsistency,

In every other fishery that has gone to an individual quota system, or limited entry, a formula based on recent participation in that fishery, has been the underlying method used in establishing the vessels quota in that fishery.

I participated in the Prawn fishery up until three years before Prawns went to limited licensing. I was not allowed a Prawn license, as I had no recent participation in that fishery, even though I had a history.

The Sablefish fishery went to an IQF System bases on recent participation and catch history and vessel length

Halibut went to an IQF System based on recent catch history and Vessel length. The Trawl fishery went to IVQ based on participation and vessel length. Even the limited access to the USA Tuna fishery was based on Catch history.

It is generally the position of the minister to approve the proposed changes and recommendations of the Regional DFO management staff. You have the power to do what is right and be consistent with historical fisheries management practices.

The ZN Quota System should be based on Vessel Length, and a combination of recent catch history (in the last 10 years) and equal division consistent with other IQF management practices.

I was one of the majorities that didn't speak French, but we still have bilingualism in Canada. This was a decision made by the Prime Minister, despite the majority that didn't agree.

Gerald Dalum
MV: "Double Decker"