

Cartwright Aboriginal Fishers  
Edwin Heard sr., Chair  
Cartwright, NL  
AOK 1V0

MAP- Ministerial Advisory Panel

May 21, 2016

Dear Panel Members:

We are a group of aboriginal inshore fishermen located with our homes in Cartwright, which is located in SFA5, on the coast of Labrador. Our very existence is owed to the commercial fishery with northern shrimp being a large component of this. We wish to express our concern and dissatisfaction with DFO policy regarding resource allocation, specifically as it pertains to northern shrimp.

We strongly feel that the resource allocation should be based on the principal of adjacency and not LIFO. First of all we should ask ourselves what is LIFO? We do not know of any other fishery that LIFO is used in as a management policy so why are we using this to manage the northern shrimp resource? It seems as if it is a policy implemented to protect the offshore interest at the expense of inshore fleets like ours. When we use terms like adjacency we think it should apply to both inshore and offshore license holders. We feel that Labrador based license holders should have more resource allocation than the license holders that are not adjacent to the resource. Had DFO implemented the adjacency principal in Labrador, specifically as it pertains to area 5, we would now have a fairer share of the resource than we currently hold. We are the most northerly independent fishermen with the most lucrative fisheries right on our doorstep yet we are struggling to survive and make a living from these resources. For example our individual northern shrimp quotas works out to 127 tonne or 280,000 lbs per enterprise. This amount is far less than what other inshore fishermen's quotas have been. Yet there is 400 tonne of area5 shrimp given to northern peninsula fishers, while we are living in area 5 and can barely make our enterprises viable. We live on the doorstep of area 6 yet we have not received one single pound of area 6 shrimp. Fishermen from 4R have received 6459 tonne and 4S have received 418 tonne of area 6 shrimp. How could this be justified? Fishermen from 4R, 3L and even 4S have all received quotas in area 6 and they are not nearly as adjacent to area 6 as we are.

We have written both the former and current Minister of Fisheries requesting more quota for our fishermen but this has been to no avail. We feel as though we have been unjustly treated with regards to getting our fair share of the resources on our doorstep. Not only do we should keep our quota that we currently hold but that we should also get an increase. Our share of the TAC for area 5 is 3% which is ridiculously low when the offshore licenses get 70% of the TAC. In 1997 when Fred Mifflin, Fisheries Minister at the time, first announced an inshore shrimp fishery, he stated that adjacency would be the fundamental principal in which this fishery would be managed. His words were " those who live near the resource would have priority in fishing it". Had DFO abided by his words we would not be in the situation we now find ourselves in. There was no mention of LIFO in 1997, adjacency was the defining principal in which the fishery was to be managed.

We trust that you will take our letter of recommendations into careful consideration when determining any future changes to our present quotas. We do not feel that quota reductions in our fleet is

justified. In fact that we feel that because of where we live and the adjacency principal, we should actually receive an increase in our quota of northern shrimp.

We hope that this clarifies our position and if you have any questions you may contact the chair of our committee Edwin Heard sr at 938-7519 or vice chair Wade Dyson at 938-7580.

Regards,