

Nadine Decker, Chairperson
Gander - New-Wes-Valley Regional Council of the Rural Secretariat
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March 20, 2015

Honourable Vaughn Granter
Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture
Confederation Building
PO Box 8700
St. John's, NL
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Re: Position Paper on Northern Shrimp Fishery Quota Allocation

Minister Granter

The fishery within this province, although complex, is critical to the viability of our coastal communities and region as a whole. In the past couple of years there have been significant developments regarding the Northern Shrimp Fishery. The shrimp fishery quota reductions, and the potential for more, have negatively impacted local enterprises and threaten some of our coastal communities. Please find attached a position paper *Northern Shrimp Fishery Quota Allocation* describing, to the best of our knowledge, some historical context to the shrimp fishery and suggestions on the application and interpretation of policies governing this resource.

Decisions cannot be changed retroactively at this point, but there are things that can be done now to ensure that similar results do not occur in the future. In fact, there are decisions that could be made now and in the future that would ensure the viability of the inshore fleet and our rural communities into the future.

It is accepted and understood that the management of the Northern Shrimp Fishery, as a natural resource owned by the people of Canada, is the responsibility of The Department of Fisheries and Oceans and ultimately the Minister of Fisheries Federally. However, it is also their responsibility to ensure that the best possible economic benefit of the resource is realized by those who own the resource. We believe there are a number of important factors that must be considered in determining the principles and policies to be used to administer and maintain this fishery.

There are indeed some policies and principles that are considered as general to the management of all natural resources and more particularly seafood resources, as well as specific policies and management principles that apply to this Northern Shrimp fishery. It would appear, as with many things, that the interpretation of the guiding principles and management policies by those who have the authority to make the

decisions is most critical to the results of those decisions. As it relates to the Northern Shrimp Fishery quota reductions, the inshore fleet has suffered and will suffer in the future substantially more than the offshore fleet. It is within the discretion of the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans to interpret, or remove, the policy of last in first out (LIFO). Stronger significance should be placed on the application of policies of adjacency, historic dependence and economic viability.

As you can appreciate, the issues within the current shrimp fishery are quite complex and likely not solvable by any one entity working alone. We hope you will take the position paper concepts under advisement and advocate to others most appropriate.

Best Regards,



Nadine Decker, Chairperson
Gander - New-Wes-Valley Regional Council

cc:

Honourable. Steve Kent, Minister, Health and Community Services, and Minister Responsible for the Office of Public Engagement
Judith Hearn, Deputy Minister, Office of Public Engagement
Sheila Kelly-Blackmore, Chairperson, Provincial Council of the Rural Secretariat
Honorable Gail Shea, Minister, Fisheries and Oceans

Enclosure