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Last In- First Out External Review Panel

c/o Department of Fisheries and Oceans

200 Kent Street

Station 15N100

Ottawa, Ontario

Canada, K1A 0E6

Dear Panel Members:

Please allow me to introduce myself. My name is William (Billy) Short and I reside at Hr. Grace, a community situated on the east coast of Newfoundland. I work in the fishing industry as a fulltime fisherman and for the past 21 years I have worked as a Marine Cook, with 14 of those years on the offshore shrimp harvesting vessel “Newfound Pioneer”. My attachment to the industry is strong and unwavering as I represent the third generation in my family to prosecute the fishery and etch a living from the waters off Newfoundland and Labrador. I am one of 26 Newfoundland and Labrador fishermen in “Newfound Pioneer’s” crew, all having an attachment to the industry such as my own. We fish on the Northeast coast of Newfoundland and Labrador and discharge our catch at the port of Bay Roberts which is also an eastern Newfoundland community.

I write this letter in response to the recent controversy over the Last in First out (LIFO) policy. While I sincerely empathize with any individual or community experiencing loss or the potential of loss, I cannot allow my empathy to distract me from what is reality and what is fact. I do not wish my words to bring harm or ill- fate to any fellow Newfoundlander but I feel I have an obligation to speak out and correct any erroneous statements and comments. Thus my correspondence is merely a reminder of the facts and, hopefully, a clarification of the misinformation that has recently been widespread by the media and by other fishing industry parties who wish to distort facts in an effort to cast a shadow over the offshore shrimp industry in favour of the inshore sector.

1. **The Northern shrimp industry was developed by the offshore sector.** In 1997 Canada’s Minister of Fisheries, Hon. Fred Mifflin, in announcing a 57 percent increase to

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the total allowable catch for Northern Shrimp, outlined four basic principles to govern access to the expansion. In recognition of the contribution made by the offshore sector in developing the Northern shrimp industry, one of those principles was a reassurance that the viability of the existing enterprises would not be jeopardized. **Current Northern Shrimp licence holders would retain their full 1996 allocation in all shrimp fishing areas(SFA's)** . To ensure the viability of the traditional offshore fleet the 1996 quota levels in each shrimp fishing area were set as thresholds, with sharing only to take place in a particular SFA if the quota was to rise above the 1996 threshold in that SFA. In future years if quotas were to decline back down to the thresholds the sharing would end and access to the resource by the new, temporary entrants would terminate. It was reiterated that there would be no permanent increase in harvesting capacity and that participation by new entrants would be temporary and would end for those SFAs where quotas declined in the future. In my humble opinion, this is very explicit and parties entering such an arrangement should have the honour, and certainly the decency, to abide by the terms agreed upon.

2. **Contribution to the Newfoundland economy by the traditional offshore Northern Shrimp fleet is significant.** Recent comments by Dr. Wade Locke, a prominent Newfoundland and Labrador economist, confirm this fact.

The offshore shrimp fleet:

- a. is manned by Newfoundlanders and Labradoreans
- b. operates year round
- c. provides hundreds of high paying jobs on the offshore vessels.
- d. directly supports more than 1000 onshore jobs
- e. purchases \$70-80 million of local goods and services annually, mostly in Newfoundland and Labrador

3. **Spawning season for shrimp is late spring to early summer.** This fact is stated by DFO scientists and is contrary to claims by other industry parties that February-March is the spawning season for Northern Shrimp. Any misrepresentation of this scientific fact to unfairly question the harvesting schedule of the offshore shrimp fleet is offensive.

In closing I thank you for your efforts on behalf of our fishing industry. I realize that the subject of your decision making is quite controversial and may result with negative impact to some relevant stakeholders. I wish you to receive the wisdom of Solomon so that such impact be minimal.

Sincerely,

William (Billy) Short
F/V Newfound Pioneer