

Fisheries Resource Conservation Council
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Gentlemen:-

Ref;- Sustainable Framework - - Feb. 27th-08

Preamble:-

The Writer, having been involved in the local fishery for more years than most of the present administrators have been on this Earth, has had ample opportunity to watch, with despair, many of the industries ups and downs.

It is my considered opinion that much of the pain and costs are expected by (the D.F.O. people) to be born equally by the people who actually do the fishing part of the industry (and although they claim to be part of the industry) little or none by the boys with the badges!

For example, and only one wee example, Lobster licenses I have watched the cost of lobster licenses raise from a low of \$.25cents to now over \$ 200.00 and that is only one small item ! Now for those that do not understand, It is not my argument that \$.25 cents was reasonable or right but to merely show the evolution as a ridiculous fact.

Now when the catches go down and quotas are set, the drop in revenue is born by the fisherman. (his income goes down substantially) Now, I ask you, who has ever seen the "Badge Boys" take a cut in pay ? Many, if not most Administrators are now receiving something close to executive pay. For their part in the Industry.

Not to mention, in addition, the benefits like paid vacations, sick leave, medical benefits and, some would call, Juicy Pensions, etc. Then of course there is free transportation in nice warm trucks, C/W gas, service, and all in sundry like tires hotel rooms, plus all out-of-pocket expenses. They are almost totally found right from boots to hat, overcoats, and, of course, both summer and winter outfits. (I wonder if that comes out of the Fisheries Budget ?)Who pays the Guys that take the risks and do the work ?

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Your questions:-

#1 Existing practices, present and past. Hugh catches of Herring are caught by Hugh Boats and Drags, even Factory Boats. The Herring is landed and processed. In too many cases the males are garbage and the females, once the Roe is removed, are also garbage. Hugh holes are dug on shore and mammoth truckloads of these fish are dumped and buried!

#2 Long term sustainability:-

Much of the catch (all species) is caught by hugh boats (which now seem to be the norm.) literally vacuuming up the bottom until, as is now the case, the Ocean's ability to rebound has been negated. Then the entire fleet is ordered To stop fishing! Any reasonable person can see that this is the fault of the small inshore fishing boats. As a penalty they have to stop fishing their most important specie.

When quotas are set for some species, the Fisherman cannot bring in anything else (save a small by-catch of say King Cod) but that species. Others that are caught, sometimes in terrific quantity, even though they are dead, They must go through the grinder and over the side.

3 How to cure it:-

Wouldn't you think that someone would observe that the problem is largely caused by those large boats, both local and foreign fleets, and wouldn't you think that having identified the cause, the solution is more than half way to being solved ? When large factory ships are thought to be over fishing is it a correct response to Hail them and ask to come aboard, check them out, and maybe arrest the boat and crew, who could lose their shirts ? Or maybe the hailed boat might say ,”this is not a good day”, so you thank them for hailing, wish them all the best and bid them on their way.

They say the big boats must have the quantity (quotas) or they can't make it pay. No acknowledgement that they are even a part of the problem. What they actually mean is , “They that take the most must have the right to hog the resource”. Now that makes sense doesn't it ! Hasn't it ever occurred to these highly paid Administrators, that if it was left to our inshore people, they do not have the ability to rape the resource, there would be hundreds, perhaps even thousands, more people legitimately employed, coastal Towns and Villages would thrive, the resource, would be much safer and who knows, maybe we wouldn't need so many Boys with Badges !

If the resource became scarce, not many Inshore fishermen would be fishing and the resource would largely look after itself. If and when the resource ever becomes healthy again, that would be the time to think about quotas.