
From: Steven Brockwell
Sent: Tuesday, 16 March 2021 9:20 PM
To: RRAT, Committee (SEN)
Subject: Senate standing committee on rural and regional affairs and transport

Submission in respect of inquiry into fisheries quota systems To whom it may concern, I am a recently retired shark fisherman 38years owned my own quota and sat on several AFMA committee and industry groups as a fishing representative prior to quota management and after.I have no financial interest in the fishery now Thankyou for the opportunity for comment, When the fishery first went to quota 2001 ,95 % of fisheries opposed it,not so much the quota system it's self but because of the possible effects to the ownership of the fishery,fishers loosing access to there fishery,and the flow on negative effects to the regional fishing ports and the service industry that supports the fishing boats.

Quota management has basically worked for the fishery except for one main area, No limits on the amount of quota a company/individual can own.

By having the quota owned by 1 or 2 companies does not create an ownership culture of the fishery by operates (fishers)Fishers have basically been reduced to boat drivers with no hope ownership,due to being outbid by monopoly of investors, Similar to investment companies owning water rights (or hoarding)then farmers not being able to access water.

one of AFMA's guiding principles for going to a quota managed fishery was for fishers to feel they have ownership,well that has failed Smaller fishing ports have become just coffee shop towns,once thriving fishing ports regional ports struggling to get supply of fish Other fishery's in Australia New Zealand and Iceland where quota was first started have limits on what a company or individual can own of a percentage of the fishery generally 5-25% to prevent monopoly behaviour.

What economic effect does having no limit on ITQ have on regional areas and on fishers?

The last five years the increase of ownership of ITQ shark fishery of basically 1 fish processor and 1 investment company combining together and only leasing quota to fishers who must sell back to them at generally a rate well below market prices, Fisherman have no where else to go as these two company's are the largest quota holders with no limits on the amount of ITQs they can own,which is great business model if your the investment company or processor but not the person that catches the fish,thus the whole fishing port losers out ,reduced income for fishers equals less money to spend on repairs and maintance on there vessels less employment for trades people,and we have all seen the marine trades people leave our fishing ports for other jobs out of town The effect this has on the whole fishery is negative as others fishers that own there own quota or lease elsewhere are limited on what they recieve for there fish as the largest quota holders (processor & investment company)purchase there fish of fisherman at a lower price because they control the price so no matter how good a fisherman's quality is,selling to another processor the, The independent processor cannot afford to pay a higher price as the combination of the processor & investment company undercut what any other independent processor can afford to pay,the fisherman thus preventing the shark price to rise across the fishery,lease prices increasing cost of goods increasing but prices of shark being kept artificially low to the power of two largest quota holders.

Fishers thrive in a free and open market place and Iam not proposing that fish processors and investment company's don't have the right to own ITQ but 1 invest company and processor should not be able to manipulate the fishery to the detriment of fishing ports and there families,it's not appropriate in most other business so why is it allowed in the shark fishery? This needs to be explained!

I do not hold any animosity to the two largest quota holders of the fishery,they are doing what is best for there company's but AFMA unfortunately has failed the fishery by limiting the full economic potential of the fishery by allowing a processor and investment company's to create a monopoly in the shark fishery I propose an investigation into what would be an amount of ownership off shark quota in % terms that would enable a fisherman ,processors

and investors to own that would give them security for there businesses without creating a monopoly so the fishery/quota system can reach its full economic potential.

Sincerely

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