

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Michael Grimshaw and I live on Flinders Island which is the smallest of 29 councils within Tasmania. I am a former professional fisherman, elected member of the local council (4 years) and former chair of the local tourism (7 Years)

I am making a submission to the Parliament of Australia inquiry into the Fishing Quota System specifically into reference points A and C combined with some other related matters.

A) good fishing practice that is ecologically sustainable with an economic dynamic that produces good community outcomes
The current system is counterproductive to regional communities when fish from those specific areas are unavailable to the residents and tourists that visit those communities.
When tourism is the fiscal backbone of an area it is imperative that the natural resources and native species are not inadvertently removed from a community.
Furthermore it is not ecologically sustainable to remove or reduce the fish from the community for the benefit of distant or international markets. A good system would support all communities helping the parity of the tourism market within the nation and subsequently ensuring strength to regional areas.

C) whether the current system disempowers small fishers and benefits large interest groups;

The reference point is clearly an issue and needs only emphasis to support small fishers, family fishers and small business. The disempowerment of the small fishers, family fishers and small business also directly undermines regional Australia and the 'produce driven boon' to Australian tourism on a national level. Any government system that removes local species from any area wether it be rock lobster, scale fish or shark is clearly wrong and needs addressing as it is the fact where I live and many regions in coastal Australia. Imagine taking the grapes from the Barossa, the Hunter or Margaret River regions with the produce only available in the capital cities. The disempowerment of the small fishers also means Reference point B) results in the slow disappearance of the small fisher.