

Ground Fish FRCC April 8/10

Pg (1)

Thanks for the chance to speak to this committee today. My presentation is not too long. I am a lobster, herring or rardine men and ~~and~~ shatoff (stop seine) and scallop fisherman. I do hold a hardline license ~~and~~ <sup>but</sup> have never caught over ten groundfish in my life besides in a lobster trap. I did spend 5 weeks on a fish chopper when I was 17 years old under an apprenticeship program that was 36 years ago (1974) so I don't pretend to be a groundfish expert but I do have an interest in a healthy groundfish stock and eco system based on it.

I do want to quote the journal of Copton Wilton Owen, RN who first settled Campbell's Island around 1772. "Aug 1 / This evening the Shoal of Pollock came in, which (tho' strange is true) they never fail doing annually between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> of this month, the fishermen catch them in immense quantities, salt and cure them for the West India Market." From my NB Grade 5 History Text Book, Pg 13;

The Perley report of 1847-1850 talks of the huge groundfishery in the Quoddy area.

Without this groundfish stock today our eco system is not ~~quite~~ complete. For the past several years our men catches have been dropping. The past year was the worst year ever. The herring or rardine never come ashore all summer but when the seine seine fishery opened in October, 2 miles offshore they loaded right after night. So the herring were there all summer but with no ground fish ~~around~~ behind them they never come ashore. One fellow here with a small fish chopper caught 2 codfish and one haddock between August and October, not even a dog fish.

~~When~~ When there was a ~~short~~ longline, gillnet and dragger fishery we caught herring on a steady basis all summer in our nets and shut off fishery.

It seems to me that the emphasis is on catching a ~~quota~~<sup>quota</sup> somewhere in the Bay of Fundy, usually in the lower lower Bay, off SW Nova Scotia and doing nothing to restore, if possible, a local groundfish based ecosystem in particular areas of the Bay.

We need groundfish here for groundfisheries and also to ~~protect~~ allow our herring fishery and herring processing industry to ~~stay~~ prosper.

I am really ~~of~~ afraid of what without cod, haddock, pollock, hake and dogfish our ~~shore~~ herring fishery along with the direct 1200 jobs in ~~the~~ SW NB will disappear.

Please allow some fish to come our way.

Thanks very much for allowing me to present my presentation.

Dale Mitchell  
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