

FRCC

I will be addressing two concerns, which i know will greatly affect the recovery of cod stocks in my area.

First; In the last fifteen years we have seen a total absence of caplin in shoal and deep water. They are absent on the beaches and in the stomach of cod ,which we catch in the small commercial fishery i take part in. This was known to DFO for many years but they keep coming up with excuses, ie spawning in deep, water warming. etc which i think is totally wrong because for, example caplin quotas have not been reached and no spawning on beaches. I know without a healthy caplin stock we can expect no recover of cod or any other fish that depend on caplin. This issue should get top priority and be taken seriously so we can have a cod fishery in the future.

Second; When an area develops a conservation harvesting plan it takes in consideration the local knowledge of the cod in that area. So when other areas use there plan in our area there is a real danger of hurting the local stocks. We know thought the tagging program that cod return year after year to the same area and by overfishing this stock ,there is a good possibility that we could do irreversible damage to that local stock. We developed a plan for our area using 6 gill nets with a weekly quota of 3000 lbs per boat we had good reasons for this, to protect the local stock and to gather as much information as possible with our small quota. But another area in the gulf decided to develop there own plan and used it in our area with total disregard for everything we were trying to do, ie using 25 gill nets per enterprise and being able combine licenses on one boat up to 50 or 60 gill nets, This not only put extra pressure on local stocks ,but also caused great concern among fishers, when we had no say in how conservation should be done and caused great mistrust for DFO in their commitment to conservation.

MONTY GOULD  
PORT AU CHOIX NL  
A0K4C0  
709 861 2218  
monty\_gould@hotmail.com  
4rs3pn