

To FRCC:

In my earlier email I omitted an important point regarding aquaculture. I wish to suggest that the Council needs to be realistic in assessing the negative impacts that fish farming can have on stocks of wild fish such as salmon, and encourage appropriate legislation to mitigate this problem. The correlation is well documented, but there is a strong industrial lobby that systematically plays down or denies the damage caused by fish farms (including nutrient build-up, concentration of pests and predators, use of pesticides and other chemicals, build-up of resistance to the chemicals by pests such as sea lice and escapes of fish having inferior genetics).

Thank you,
Graham Smith

----- Original Message -----

From: [G Smith](#)

To: info@frcc-ccrh.ca

Sent: Tuesday, April 20, 2010 4:45 PM

Subject: Sustainable Atlantic Canadian Groundfish Fisheries

To: FRCC

Thank you for the opportunity to make inputs regarding this important subject.

I believe that the Council is on the right track by looking at long-term sustainability of the fishery. It is clear that some current harvesting methods, such bottom-dragging, are indiscriminate. In addition they can create damage to fish habitat, which in principle may not be sustainable and may be violating terms of the Fisheries Act.

With these factors in mind, and considering also the social and consumer aspects of the fishery, I respectfully suggest that the Council consider the following targets in the course of the review. My suggestions are closely aligned with the fisheries-related objectives of the Ecology Action Centre in Halifax.

- Fisheries management decisions which favour fishing practices that minimize habitat damage and bycatch. Examples are gear substitutions, modifications and area closures.
- Fisheries law, policy and management decisions, both nationally and internationally, that are responsive to scientific input and provide for public involvement, with the primary objective of protecting and restoring the marine ecosystem for generations to come.
- Consumer access to well labelled, local, sustainable seafood choices, as well as the ability for fishermen to gain a better market price for sustainably caught seafood.
- A functioning zoning system in our waters that protects critical habitat areas from the fishing practices that damage them as well as extensive marine planning that properly engages all stakeholders.
- Building, maintaining and restoring healthy and vibrant coastal communities where fishing is a meaningful source of employment for a large part of the population.

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