



February 24, 2012

DFO Discussions
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
13th Floor North
200 Kent Street, Mail Station 13N159
Ottawa, ON, K1A 0E6

To whom it may concern,

I am the president of Acadian Fishermen's Co-op Ass'n Ltd which is owned by 91 member fishermen. We very strongly support the Owner/Operator and Fleet Separation on Canada's Atlantic Coast and feel that it is an integral part of the sustainability of rural Atlantic Canada.

We feel that these policies are the cornerstone of Canada's coastal communities and should be strengthened by enshrining them in legislation.

It is very important for any review of other policies and regulations to be conducted with harvester organizations on a fishery by fishery basis in keeping with DFO's stated support for shared stewardship.

We do not believe that the consultations to date for this policy review have been adequate, and that they certainly have not been sufficient to overturn the overwhelming support that was shown for the Owner/Operator and Fleet Separation policies demonstrated in the comprehensive consultations under AFPR.

Please accept this letter as our support for the Owner/Operator and Fleet Separation policies and that these policies be strengthened for the benefit of all Atlantic Canada.

Yours truly,

Keith Paugh
President
Acadian Fishermen's Co-op Ass'n Ltd.

cc: Hon. Keith Ashfield
Hon. Gail Shea