

Dear Ms. Maxwell:

The fleet separation policy and the owner – operator policy are cornerstones of our fishery and our government supports them. These policies have protected the independence of our inshore fleets from competition from large companies, and have allowed our coastal communities to continue to make a living from the fishery.

The DFO document speaks about sustainability, economic viability and predictability but leaves questions about the fleet separation and owner - operator policies unanswered. These policies are very important to our coastal communities. I will be asking Minister Ashfield how these long-standing policies will fit into the future management of the Atlantic Fisheries.

I'm also aware certain groups have concerns about a lack of time to respond to the current federal Future of Canada's Commercial Fisheries review. In the coming days I will be urging Minister Ashfield to work with these groups to address the concerns they have around consultation.

Yours sincerely,

Original Signed By:

Sterling W.W. Belliveau
Minister
Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture