

**April 25, 2015**

**Frédéric Butruille**

Fisheries and Oceans Canada / Government of Canada  
343 Av. Université, P.O. Box 5030  
Moncton, New Brunswick  
Canada, E1C 5K4

Dear Frédéric,

As a follow-up to the recent review in Montreal of allocation decisions that have taken place since 2007 in the Gulf Atlantic Halibut Fishery, we would like to further emphasize the Maritime Provinces' united objective of every fleet having **EQUAL** opportunity to succeed in this fishery.

Recommendations and comments from the Prince Edward Island Fishermen's Association (PEIFA), the Maritime Fishermen's Union (MFU), the Gulf of Nova Scotia Fishermen's Coalition (GNSFC), the Gulf Bonafide Fishermen's Organization (GBFO), the Northumberland Fishermen's Association (NFA), the MFU local 4, the Inverness South Fishermen's Association, the North of Smokey-Inverness South Fishermen's Association (NOSFA) and the 4VN Management Board are as follows:

1. All groups agree that the sharing arrangement from 2007 is unjust and should have been based on more than just history. The history used is skewed due to the cod moratorium which held all Southern Gulf 4RST fishers at the wharf unable to create any history at all.
2. All groups agree that the decision to share the total allowable catch (TAC) using a **1/8 sharing formula** made in 2011 was precedent setting and should not be overlooked. This is the sharing formula that should continue.
3. All groups understand that changing the past is difficult and therefore accept that the **2011 decision of 1/8 sharing on any TAC over 600mt** is an acceptable point to maintain the change that was already made in that year.
4. All groups agree that a decrease in the percentage currently given to these groups is unacceptable and will destroy the fishery we have. This will result in large economic loss to all communities and families involved. Any further decline in this fishery will lead to a further exodus of your

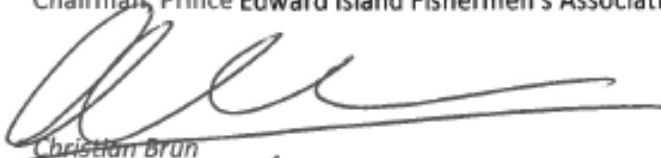
people from the Maritime's. The halibut fishery in Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia is a vital contributor to the local economics and must not only be maintained but enhanced in a fair and equitable manner.

We enthusiastically support the review of allocation decisions that have taken place since 2007 in the Gulf Atlantic Halibut Fishery and are confident appropriate changes will be made giving every fleet **equal** opportunity to succeed in this fishery.

Sincerely,



*Tony Carter*  
Chairman, Prince Edward Island Fishermen's Association: Groundfish Advisory



*Christian Brun*  
Executive Director, Maritime Fishermen's Union



*Leonard LeBlanc*  
President, Gulf Nova Scotia Fishermen's Coalition, Gulf Bonafide Fishermen's Organization, Northumberland Fishermen's Association, MFU Local 4 and Inverness South Fishermen's Association



*Robert Courtney*  
President, North of Smokey – Inverness South Fishermen's Association



*Herb Nash*  
President, 4VN Management Board

CC:

Stephen McNeil, Premier – Nova Scotia

Wade MacLauchlan, Premier – Prince Edward Island

Brian Gallant, Premier – New Brunswick

Alan McIlsac, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries: Province of Prince Edward Island

Keith Colwell, Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture: Province of Nova Scotia

Rick Doucet , Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries Minister : Province of New Brunswick

Sean Casey, Liberal MP for Charlottetown, PE

Wayne Easter, Liberal MP for Malpeque, PE

Lawrence MacAulay, Liberal MP for Cardigan, PE

Bobby Morrissey, Liberal MP for Egmont, PE

Bill Casey, Liberal MP for Cumberland – Colchester, NS

Rodger Cuzner, Liberal MP for Cape Breton – Canso, NS

Mark Eyking, Liberal MP for Sydney – Victoria, NS

John Buchanan, District 6 Councillor, NS

Bruce Morrison, Warden Victoria County, NS

Pamela Eyking, MLA for Victoria Lakes, NS

Geoff MacLellan, MLA for Glace Bay, NS

Serge Cormier, Liberal MP for Acadie—Bathurst, NB

Dominic LeBlanc, Liberal MP for Beauséjour, NB

Pat Finnigan, Liberal MP for Miramichi—Grand Lake, NB

Leonard LeBlanc, President, Gulf Nova Scotia Fishermen's Coalition, Gulf Bonafide Fishermen's Organization, Northumberland Fishermen's Association, MFU Local 4 and Inverness South Fishermen's Association

Tony Carter, Chair - Prince Edward Island Fishermen's Association Groundfish Advisory

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Christian Brun, Executive Director – Maritime Fishermen's Union

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Craig Avery, President – Prince Edward Island Fishermen's Association

Herb Nash, President – 4VN Management Board

Robert Courtney, President – North of Smokey-Inverness South Fishermen's Association

Dave McEwen, Manager, Marine Fisheries – Province of PE

Gordon Greencorn, Coastal Resource Coordinator: Eastern Shore – Province of NS

Louis Ferguson, Development Officer – Province of NB

Mario Gaudet, Director: Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries – Province of NB

Ian MacPherson, Executive Director – Prince Edward Island Fishermen's Association