

I do not agree on using any years, especially 2010-2016, as they do not give a true representation of fishing activity within the zone and therefore those landed catch rates for this year should not be used to determine the amount of quota to be allocated to species being quoted.

Fishing activity between 2010 and 2016 was restricted due to a number of input and output restraints that effect the ability of fisher's being able to fish to their full potential.

These being

1. The small allocation per day of species with trip limits making it uneconomic for fisherman to fish those particular species.
2. The potential catch per trip cannot be ascertain by measuring discards. Trip limits forced fisherman to avoid fishing grounds where it was highly likely to catch abundant amount of the species controlled by trip limits.
3. Once this trip limit was caught the fisherman was no longer able to continue fishing the other species and they would then have to either
 - a. return to port early
 - b. travel to another part of the fishery where species with trip limits were not abundant,
 - c. Try to continue fishing and avoid overfishing the trip limits or have to discard – which then restricting the ability of the fisher to catch the other species he was targeting.
4. So in the summary most Fishers avoided fishing the productive grounds due to these output controls and therefore missed out on potential catch history.
5. All units were allocated due to past participation in the inshore trawl fishery. We have our past history – one unit each.
6. We have used our licence in years gone past, and for some of the reasons above, have chosen not to keep trawling in State waters since 2003. We have still been paying the exact same amount of fees as every other operator each year. That is why we feel the allocation of quota should be on an equal footing. Each operator has one trawl unit – this was determined from prior past catch. Everyone should be on an equal amount, regardless of use of licence. Equal means equal.
7. The amount of quota to be allocated is ridiculous, if DPI are serious they should negotiate a buyout of licence holders who wish to depart. Precedents have been set by the Marine Parks buyout, and also permit transfers that have been sold. Licencees should NOT have to buy out their living from other unit holders. After a buyout, whoever stays in will have a higher quota to help make a living from.

Commonwealth quota should be able to be caught in state waters. That will save highgrading and dumping.

Commonwealth quota should not be taken from Commonwealth quota holders and transferred to the state inshore. Allowances had already been made for state catches back when the quota system was implemented in 1992.

Regards

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