

April 9, 2017

DFO

I am representing the East Coast Otter Trawl Assoc. We are a combination of approximately 30 (thirty) mobile gear license holders duly recognized by DFO since 1989 and licenses held by our members since the 1970's. There are 30 license holders in areas 2J, 3K, 3L and 3PS that make up our association.

We now want to submit to DFO a proposal for access to fish in several different areas adjacent to Newfoundland and Labrador.

Turbot: For several years we have had a small turbot quota in 3K-3L area of 90 mt. This is a very costly fishery in regard to gear up. Because of this out of 30 (thirty) license holders only two or three vessels can participate each year. We are asking for an increase from 90 mt. to 1360 mt. The quality of mobile gear turbot is second to none.

Red Fish 3K: For several years prior to 2010 we have had 100 mt. quota for Red Fish in 3K on an exploratory basis. We feel that because of the abundance of Red Fish in this area it is time to pursue a fishery and we are asking for 1500 mt.

Red Fish 3L: We are asking for access to Red Fish in this area since we know the stocks are increasing as per the semi-annual TAC increase for the next 7 (seven) years that is already in place.

Over the past number of years we have seen some great increases in our ground fish stocks such as catch rates for turbot which we have seen firsthand and while fishing turbot we have seen great signs of red fish even though we are using large mesh gear.

With conservation and quality in mind we feel our requests are reasonable.

Thank you,

John Efford,
Chairman
East Coast Otter Trawl Association

