

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 with licenses held by our members since the 1970's. Our association is made up by license holders from areas 2J, 3K, 3L and 3PS.

As I stated yesterday at your meeting we want to be a contributing group to make this fishery a success for everyone. If we all work toward this direction while respecting each other's needs we cannot fail. If we do any other we will fail. I want to confirm to you that you and your office have and will continue to have our full support.

We all understand how important science is to the fishery as a whole. The FFAW position is that their fishery be contained by the inshore small boats only. Our group could be instrumental in providing valuable offshore information so all groups and individuals would be confident they are included in the new fishery of the future.

Emphasizing the need to respect each other's needs I now want to submit to you a request for 2000 mt. of cod to fish in areas that do not conflict with our local inshore boats.

In conclusion, working as a group will guarantee success for everyone. There will be challenges to overcome and we all must look to the future and conquer the challenges together.

Thank you in advance,

R. John Efford Jr.  
Chairman  
East Coast Otter Trawl Association