

INQUIRY INTO COMMERCIAL FISHING IN NEW SOUTH WALES

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DO YOU CONSIDER YOURSELF TO BE A FAIR MINDED PERSON ??????????????????

The following article was originally created as a series of Facebook posts but once I re-read it I noticed it simply spells out what is so horribly wrong with the Commercial Fishing Reform package.

It would seem the architects of this package live in a world of graphs and pie charts and have no real knowledge of the human side of commercial fishing.

Commercial fishing is a lifestyle thing..... There is no tech course or apprenticeship for fishing, you cannot teach someone who does not have it in their DNA.

By over simplifying the process I was aware that it may seem I was making light of a very serious problem.

Many commercial fishermen are going to lose their livelihood, their lifestyle and in some cases there is the risk of losing their life.

AND THIS IS WHY.....

Why are so many rec fishers concerned about the commercial fishing reform package?

BECAUSE AUSTRALIA IS STILL SUPPOSED TO BE THE LAND OF THE "FAIR GO"

Let me explain a case scenario in as simple terms as I can.

Fisherman A has been a pro fisher all his working life. He makes 100% of his income from fishing.

A number of years ago someone from the Gummint converted his licences and called them shares and endorsements.

As required by the regulations fisherman A reported everything he caught and sold to market, co-ops or the public..... This was then called his catch rate.

In the meantime fisherman B got a wink and a nod that these shares may become valuable one day so he set about buying up all the shares he could from retiring fishers, dead fishers, or just fishers who didn't want to do it any more.

For the sake of argument let's say fisherman B now has as many shares as fisherman A but he doesn't use them..... He just sits on them waiting for the big pay day.

One day another Gummint man comes along and says "This fishing industry needs reform"

They decide to pool all the catch rates and share them equally among all the shareholders.

SO, fisherman B finishes up with half of fisherman A's catch rate.

Here's the rub.

If fisherman A wants to maintain his previous workrate and income, he has to buy the shares off fisherman B. Fisherman A has to borrow money, in some cases in excess of \$100,000.

Fisherman B now has a pocketful on money but fisherman A is right where he started except he now has a mortgage on his house and no extra income to service the loan.

If you think that is fair then you are one WEIRD DUDE.

THEY SAY IF YOU CAN'T EXPLAIN IT TO A SIX YEAR OLD THEY WON'T GET IT.

If you still don't get it..... the six year old version is at the bottom.

MAYBE YOU PREFER GRAPHICS.....

SCROLL DOWN

DOWN

DOWN

DOWN

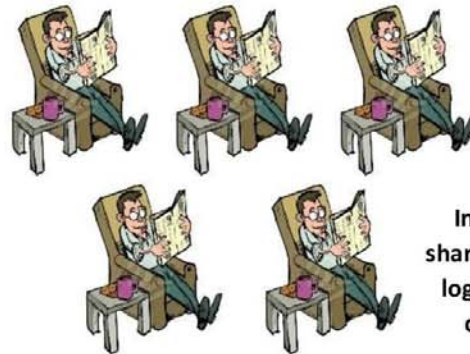
DOWN

Share Management

Shares were issued to fishers regardless of whether you caught 1kg or 1tonne



Active shareholder logging catch and builds up 20t of catch history.



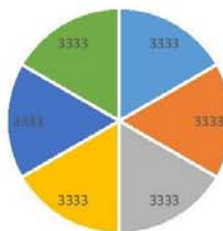
Inactive shareholders logging nil catch.

Reform

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Catch history of hard working active fisher is taken and re distributed into the pie.

Reallocated Catch



■ Active ■ Latent ■ Latent ■ Latent ■ Latent ■ Latent

Pie is divided equally between all shareholders in the fishery.



Active Fishers are forced to either;

1. Buy quota back.
2. Lease quota
3. Get out of the industry.



Inactive fishers are given quota for nothing and can either.

1. Sell quota and make money.
2. Lease quota and make money.

Note:

For days worked, just substitute kg for days.

Little Johnny and little Billy are both six years old and go to same school.

Little Johnny has been very helpful this week, picking up papers in the yard, cleaning the blackboard and sweeping the classroom.

The teacher rewards little Johnny by giving him two apples.

Little Billy in the meantime has been playing with his game-station at the back of the class.

Another teacher comes along and seeing that little Johnny has two apples and little Billy has none, takes one of little Johnny's apples and gives it to little Billy.

Little Johnny has a bit of a grizzle "I don't want to seem greedy but I worked hard and earned those two apples"

The second teacher said to little Johnny "If you want your other apple back you will need to give something of value to little Billy..... You are wearing a nice shiny pair of shoes, you could give your shoes to little Billy for his apple"

Little Johnny is now doing detention because he told the teacher to GET F&#KED

IT SHOULD NEVER HAVE COME TO THIS.....

We have been told by the Department the original intention was to rid the industry of latent licences.

This should have been done first when the simple method would have been to say to any fisher who has not worked his licence for two years "You have forfeited your licence to fish".

Then and only then should there have been a period of taking stock of what assets were left and how best to use them.

What we have now is a re-shaping of the industry that will in time make it a target for overseas investment at the expense of Australian workers and their families.