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Seafood Producers warn against lifting provincial buying restriction

St John's, NL - The Association of Seafood Producers says there is some talk going around of letting outside buyers come in to buy the province's seafood in competition with provincial plants; in other words, to lift the provincial restriction which some harvesters see as a privilege to processors. And according to them, it would spell disaster for the processing sector.

“That would, simply put, mark the dramatic downsizing of the processing industry in the province,” says ASP's Executive Director, Derek Butler. “I suspect it's not something that our plants or communities are ready for or desirous of.”

Butler says the provincial buying restriction is a privilege shared by all in the province, for the benefit of communities and plant workers, not just producers. “Lifting that restriction would dramatically downsize our industry,” he said. “I don't think it's the public policy choice that is in the best interests of plant workers, plants or communities.”

“The industry needs restructuring, to be sure,” says Butler, “and that restructuring will either be by design or by Darwin. The challenge before us is to manage the change in our best collective interest as a province. We can't fix it in one direction only. We need to - somehow, somewhere - address security of supply for all stakeholders, in a renewed fishery.”

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For more information:

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