

MEDIA RELEASE

Shrimp cuts devastating, widespread impacts predicted But DFO is right to follow the science, says ASP

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(St. John's, NL) The Association of Seafood Producers (ASP) says federal cuts to shrimp quotas for the inshore fleet will have a devastating impact on the industry, including all shrimp plants, but the cuts were not unexpected.

"We have known this day would come, we are not surprised or shocked. But it is devastating, to be sure," said Derek Butler, Executive Director of ASP.

"This will hit the industry hard, both processors and harvesters, and the communities where people strive to earn a livelihood," said Butler.

Butler says shrimp has proven to be a cyclical resource in other jurisdictions, and the declines have been taking place over a number of years now.

"We have gone from 177 million pounds of raw material in the inshore, in 2010, to about 25 million now. Operating full time, that's enough for 2 shrimp plants, but there were 9 operating last year. It is going to be a rough year," said Butler, "and the news does not look good on crab either."

Together, shrimp and crab make up the majority of value in the inshore fishery.

But Butler says it is wrong for some to suggest DFO is 'taking away' quota.

"The resource is simply not there, the science shows the biomass is down significantly. We have to respect the science, and the Minister is right to follow it," said Butler.

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