

Submission from concerned fisher (name redacted)

From: []
Sent: Saturday, June 24, 2023 1:48 PM
To: Registrar <Registrar@comcom.govt.nz>
Subject: Moana Sanford ace aquisition

Respectfully, to you who are undertaking assesment of this proposed aquisition.

[

] Consequently, I was not issued any quota.

As a result, I know quite intimately, what its like to try to enter the NZ fishing industry, and make a workable career in such.

My thoughts on this commerce commission decision, are therefore setout below.

- There is no free market of ace for access into NZs fishery. Elements of the pretense of such do exist. However, it would be far more correct to say, " that after vested interests have traded amongst themselves, to satisfy personal objectives, any remaining untraded ace is available to an open source, or simply expires".

- Access to ace is controlled by the discretionary favour of quota share and ace holders. By allowing this big accumulation of ace concentration in fisheries here, we will be by correlation, also extending the status quo of current industry behaviour. Ie, more concentrated power. Power in advocacy, power in consultation over regulatory engagement, power over funding decisions. Basically all oversight and management processes of fisheries inshore business.

This will be effective dictatorship, as opposed to the pathetically weak democratic if you could even call it that, current situation. So its not merely competition in the market place we are talking about. We are really dealing with the structural integrity of where, possible competition could evolve from.

- the qms argued that industry needed gilt edged security in order to develop and grow. That handing over or devolving self determinate power ie neo liberal politics was they way forwards. In exchange, industry would, for zero resource rentals on the assets of the peoples commons, ie in this case fish stocks, would, innovate, market, research, sustain and grow jobs, all the while delivering the best cheapest and reliable supply of seafood here. Three decades later, after free resource rentals, the taxpayers are funding science, stocks have not reached targets, industry is out of touch with value markets, innovation is totally monopolised and weak, jobs are being outsourced to foreign labour and the NZ consumer is being extorted for fish costs.

- this, is a proposal of business as usual, and you know what they say about that "if you always do what youve always done, you will always get what youve always got".

So if you feel the last three decades have been going well, then I guess you should approve it.

All I know, is ive spent 30 years bowing and serving quota lords. I have had to buy quota from saved income, I pay income tax on my income, im not a non taxable entity, I pay premium lease values for ace, before I set out to earn enough to feed my family.

[

] I could do more, much more, yet these access roads are closed to any who are not favoured by those in power of such resources.

Fisheries of NZ, are an oligopoly of priviledged entities, enjoying controlling access to the resources of the peoples commons. As such, these privilledged few are not under any influence to be anymore than that which they wish to be. Ie I feel sad for them, that they have allowed their own comforts to deny themselves of their greatest potentials in life. Sadly, NZ can put the greatest rugby players on earths sports feilds, but we cant translate that much further into other endeavours we toil at on a daily basis.

Selling the maximum biological harvest our oceans can produce, at its lowest practical quality, for the lowest, easiest dollars we can find, at the lowest possible costs possible, doesnt seem like our best game to me.

Now we are asking kiwis to fund having new bottom trawlers built to enhance that formulae further. Im sure AI technology driving these vessels combined with slave foreign labour, will assist the present model. Its also possible to remove troublesome tree stumps with nuclear warheads too.

- You can probably appreciate why I find it hard to lease ace from these entities. I dont have any personal greivance with any of the people in our industry, I do certainly not agree with many of the ideologies they imploy, but, at days end they are just folks like we all are. This is about what mite work, what does or doesnt work, and what we would like it to work like.

- My closing comment, "choice is the power of meaningful change and resilience"

Will this outcome enhance or diminish choices for change and resilience in todays dynamic world?

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