

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee](#)  
**Date:** Wednesday, 26 September 2018 2:00:31 PM

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To whom it may concern

I am a third generation fisherman who has watched this industry and every coastal town along with it be destroyed by government reform.  
And now it is happening again.  
These reforms are going to wreck my life and business

You need to remember that fishermen are just farmers of the sea.

It has taken me the last 30 mins before closing to write this

3 years ago I invested everything I had into the purchase of my trawler the Spartan  
Since then I have invested everything I have earned into fixing my boat and bring her to as new condition because you get so much trouble from msq  
Having a boat in there eyes is good enough there eyes so I could get to sea to begin with  
I only have a t1 trawl licence and no effort units I have hustled leased them .  
Now that I have got my boat in great condition .  
The price of the effort has risen 1000%  
Since I purchased my boat because of all these reforms .  
And I can't afford them now.  
So what am I to do now.  
I have a 3 month old baby daughter and my wife to support and a big bank debit.  
I employ up to 4 people plus myself and my family.  
The uncertainty of these reforms have taken a toll on me mentally and my family has suffered as a result.  
The whole thing is  
That if you just let the boats do 200 nights per year and that's it  
There is not enough boats left to worry any fishery  
Plus people will still just work around where they live .  
about all this reforms you are just making paper worth a lot of money  
And out of reach for the true fishermen but not the investor .  
I am just trying to battle away and earn a living for my family that's it  
At times you make me want to just give up and go on the dole .  
What's the point I work so hard to support my family .  
To be then not supported by government breaks my heart at times .  
If I had more time this letter would be rather large and in depth  
Because I have watched and worked this industry for 35years but you don't listen to us fishermen .  
Just the expert panel that have the time to be there some which have never done a days work at sea in there lives.  
I hope that you will start to listen to us as we are the ones that know.  
Please call me on [REDACTED]  
I would like to have a chat with you further.  
Or better still your welcome to come to my boat for some input anytime.  
But you see I am not interested in the money  
I just love to go fishing that's why god made me  
And work hard for my country

And on the 8th day, God looked down on his paradise covered in water and said, "I need a caretaker." So God made a fisherman.

God said, "I need somebody willing to wake up before dawn, to work all day in the sun, to know the wind and the tides, and to respect the oceans I've created." So, God Made a fisherman.

"I need somebody with arms strong enough to haul in the days catch but gentle enough to untangle those that don't belong. Somebody to weld steel, sew nets, work with machinery and stay out for days on end away from

his family, to miss holidays and birthdays to sell his catch to the families of others. So God made a fisherman.

God said, "I need somebody willing to sit up all night through wind and storm, to take on water but still trust that I will calm the seas. I need somebody with calloused hands, Hands that can steer his vessel, splice rope, and throw anchors but are still soft enough to hold the hand next to him and give thanks for every meal. So God made a fisherman.

God had to have somebody willing to ride rough seas, work in the driving rain, in the beating heat and the relentless cold. Someone with tenacity, to haul in empty nets time after time but still set back out with hopes for the next drag. Someone who works through days and nights and over weeks at a time to sell his catch for half the price he made last week. So God made a fisherman.

God said, "I need somebody strong enough to clear the deck and heave baskets, to sleep with the hum of a generator, the rock of the sea and the smell of fish and fuel. It had to be somebody who'd sail straight and not cut corners. Somebody to travel oceans, inlets, channels, gulfs and sounds, to different harbors far from where he had come but still feels at home in the waters I created.

"Somebody who will teach generations after him what he learned from the generations before. Who would bring his family close when he could, to entertain with stories of what was caught and what got away. Who would laugh and smile when his daughter looks up and says she wants to spend her days "on the water with Dad." So God made a fisherman.

Kind regards

Ben Matt  
Trawler Owner operator

Sent from my iPhone