Kenyon Hensel
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To the Pacific Fishery Management Council,
I have new numbers from Ms. Kate King from the N.M.F.S.; these
numbers are from GMT Report G.3.(1). And explain the derivation
of O.Y.’s of Miner Rockfish in 2000.

Still the allocation of black rock is skewed. These fish
where targeted by the open access jig fisherman. To give 91% of
these fish to closed access boats, simply causes these boats to
regear and fish shallow to target black rock in the near shore. The
long line fisherman only landed these fish as a low value by catch.
The near shore open access fishermen have created high value
markets for these fish. The council has ignored its mandates. If this
were not true then the black rockfish limit would be in the near
shore open access quota. These black rockfish represent a large
economic contribution to our livelihoods and communities. Their
lost out of the open access fishermen’s hands, costs the fishermen
and coastal communities much more then the closed access boats
will make landing them. In this way the council has ignored the
economic impact of its actions.

Look how confusing your numbers are. In the case of
the .083% of fish given to the open access, this percentage does not
make it to the end allocations. The open access allocation should
be 316mts, not 253mts before distribution into the new depth
categories. If I was to follow the federal register as printed in Jan,
than my numbers would come out differently. I would use 75% of
the remaining rockfish 3625mts, minis Black 950mts and chili
43mts. This number would be 1974mts. To this I would add 50%
of other rockfish, 1034mts and the Blacks and chilies. The Minor
rockfish OY north would be 4001 mts, not 3814. I hope in the
future the figures make more sense.

Kenyon Hensel
Dear Council Member,

Since my financial state is depleted, I must now resort to the least effective means of representation, the open letter. I wish that you would treat this as a person-to-person conversation between us. I encourage you to contact me personally to allow me to answer questions and fill in the gaps of this style of communication. That way, open access will have the representation it now lacks, and yet deserves.

My first and most pressing issue is the omission of 146mts of black rockfish left out of the northern areas near shore open access limit.

In the publication, Status of the Pacific Coast Ground Fishery through 1999 and recommended acceptable Biological Catches For 2000, on page 41-second paragraph it is stated that the black rockfish total contribution to OY is 950mts. Yet on the final allocations and OYs for 2000 the contribution of black rockfish is 67% of 1200mts. which equals 804mts. This equals a net loss of 146mts. This mistake should be rectified with an addition of 146mnts of black rockfish to our monthly quotas immediately. This would raise the bimonthly quota to 2000lbs of near shore rockfish. Of which 500lbs could other then black and blue rockfish.

It is understandable that some mistakes would be made in the gear restrictions confusion surrounding the turmoil of changing the accounting methods this fall. This would be a good time to show the fishermen that the council can and will rectify it’s mistakes.

My second pressing consideration is surrounding the use of non-permitted gears by permit boats. If this decision is finalized, then the council must open the permit process to allow people like myself, who were denied permits due to the gear we use, permits also. We petitioned the council during the formation of closed access, and were denied licenses due to gear restrictions even though we met or exceeded landing requirements. If those gear restrictions are lifted, those of us who have the fishing history should be able to reapply for a closed access license.

My hope is that the council will begin to recognize gears that are the least damaging to the environment, and are the most selective in the species that are caught, and work to preserve them. I would like to also point out that in most all gears, the way that they are fished influence greatly their effectiveness in the above categories. The loss of experienced fisherman will
greatly increase the problems facing management in understanding these considerations and implementing strategies that fulfill the goal of more with less that has to be the guiding principle in the fishing industry today.

Sincerely,

Kenyon Hensel

c.c. Jim Glock
c.c. Thomas Barnes
c.c. Dr. Jim Hastie
c.c. Mark Saelens
c.c. Bill Robbinson
To all G.M.T. members,

Since I am unable to attend the Feb meeting due to monetary and other scheduling problems, I wanted to send a quick note to the team outlining the effects the new quotas are having on our northern area open access fishery. We fishermen are relying on the high price of live fish to survive the new management changes. With these prices, we might be able to gross as much as 5000$ a month when the ling cod fishing is allowed in May. There is no guarantee that the prices will stay high after the opening of the southern area. If prices fall to last year’s level, we will make two thirds of that income. This is during our normal season of April till Sep. thus we will be reduced to a high price scenario of 30,000$ yearly income, or allow price income of 20,000$. This is a reduction of 1/3 to 1/2 of our normal yearly income.

None of us fishermen feel like we want to have more fish per month and run the risk of running out of fish mid summer. There is still the chance we will run out of fish. There is only enough OY to support 93 boats catching the monthly quotas for nine months. We here in Crescent City would rather that the Counsel tracks the catch and up the limits as the fishing efforts warrants.

Our county Supervisors are very upset that the local supply of fresh fish is not available under these conditions. There will be no local fish in our markets except the inferior drag fish component. Also the local drag fish may not even be on our market as prices are higher inland and the loss of supply will push sellers to chase that increase and leave our markets with import or little rock cod at a high price.

The filet business I have spent my life building is wiped out. I have no way to repay the money that I have invested over the last five years. I am not even sure that I can support my family on the income allowed to me. I am bitter and saddened that the community that is charged with management was not able to take the time and understanding to decrease the social impact of their actions.

I will continue to try to bring the fisherman’s perspective to the near shore northern area’s management group.

Kenyon Hensel

cc. Tom Barnes, Dave Thomas
Brain Culver, Jim Glock
Dr. Hastie, MS. Kate King
Dr. MaCCall, Mark Saelens