Public Testimony to the Pacific Fisheries Management Council April 11, 2002
By R. Daniel Leinan Clerk – Treasurer, City of Forks, Washington

Review of written testimony of local citizens.

Confusion (differences) over exhibit E.12 and E.12.b
- Proposals
- Information received
- Council action / request for voluntary compliance (commercial)

? We could have voluntary compliance in the Recreational fishery also? Why not

Issue #1 Safety: Small boat owners are going to be required to push the safety envelop beyond what they are currently doing in order to Access the Halibut grounds. You are placing these citizens in harms way for no reason.

Issue #2 Economic Impacts: Has there been an economic analysis of this closure? There have been a lot of investments made in our community based on recreational fishing access.

Issue #3 Science: Is this regulation implementation based on scientific analysis? Is this the only spot in the Ocean where Halibut and Yelloweye swim together? Is there a Yelloweye recovery plan in place? Does removing Halibut from an area help or hurt the Yelloweye population? Did original planned regulations include Yelloweye harvest?

Issue #4 Process: Were all of the State and Federal rule making requirements followed? Were there public hearings held that were advertised and accessible to the interested citizens?

Issue #5 Fairness: Is this regulation fair? We support the non-retention rule that treats all areas equally. Does this rule treat all areas equally or provide equal opportunity for all user groups? Why is area 3 required to pay the entire conservation price for the entire Coast? In the words of one citizens testimony “Who’s looking out for the little guy”?