Dr. William Hogarth  
Assistant Administrator for Fisheries  
National Atmospheric and Oceanic Administration  
1315 East West Highway SSM C3  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Dr. Hogarth:

I write with regard to a series of proposed rules concerning the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery.

As you know, limits on groundfishing were proposed in order to protect the endangered yelloweye rockfish. However, these proposed regulations will also have the unintended consequence of limiting or eliminating fishing for dogfish sharks. Dogfish sharks are one of the most popular specimens used by high school and college biology students for study. Limiting the Pacific catch would have a substantial impact on schools and students who rely on the availability of specimens as a major part of their biology curriculum. In the future, limiting the availability of specimens for study may eventually result in a reduction of American students who choose to pursue careers in the sciences.

I encourage the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to examine all of the consequences of these proposals, including the reduction in the availability of dogfish for scientific study, when formulating a final rule in the coming weeks. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Best regards,

Bill Thomas

WILLIAM M. THOMAS  
Member of Congress