March 22, 2004

Mr. Donald Hanson, Chairman
Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 Ambassador Place, Suite 200
Portland, OR 97220

RE: 2005-2006 Groundfish management

Dear Chairman Hanson and Council members,

My name is Dan Leinan and I represent the LaPush Area Recreation fisheries in the North of Falcon and PFMC process. Local citizens fish for groundfish and halibut in the Washington Area 3.

We are extremely concerned about the lack of regional management on weak groundfish stocks that govern our fisheries on healthier stocks. There is no fairness in allowing one state's excessive catch to preclude fishing in the other states. Groundfish fisheries are critically important to our coastal economy and tourism.

We urge you to adopt management measures for 2005-2006 that partition the coast into regions and assign the responsibility for management in these regions to the individual states.

Thank you for your help.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

R. Daniel Leinan
Clerk-Treasurer
City of Forks

cc: WDFW – Phil Anderson
March 23, 2004

Mr. Donald Hanson
Pacific Fisheries Management Council
7700 Ambassador Place, Suite 200
Portland, OR 97220-1384

VIA FAX AND FIRST CLASS MAIL

Dear Mr. Hanson,

Our community has been severely impacted by the decline of the groundfish. We are very interested in the recovery of the endangered species, but we also know there are some species that are not endangered. We ask that you delegate the responsibility for managing the weak stocks in our waters to our state Department of Fish & Wildlife for 2005-2006. We think this is the best way to protect the weak stocks while allowing fishing on the more abundant species. The current system appears to favor other states over Washington.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mack Funk
Manager

[Handwritten Signature]

Mack Funk
Mr. Donald Hanson, Chairman  
Pacific Fishery Management Council  
7700 Ambassador Place, Suite 200  
Portland, OR 97220

Re: 2005-2006 Groundfish management

Dear Chairman Hanson and Council members,

My name is Butch Smith and I represent the Ilwaco Charter Association. My members fish for groundfish and halibut off both the Washington and Oregon coasts. We are extremely concerned about the lack of regional management on weak groundfish stocks that govern our fisheries on healthier stocks. There is no fairness in allowing one state's excessive catch to preclude fishing in other states. Groundfish fisheries are critically important for our coastal economies.

We urge you to adopt management measures for 2005-2006 that partition the coast into regions and assign the responsibility for management in these regions to the individual states.

Thank you for your help and effort.

Respectfully yours:

Butch Smith  
Ilwaco Charter Association

Cc: Phil Anderson
March 22, 2004

Mr. Donald Hanson, Chairman
Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 Ambassador Place, Suite 200
Portland, OR 97220

Re: 2005-2006 Groundfish management

Dear Chairman Hanson and Council members,

I am writing to urge the Council to put into place a regional management system for certain groundfish species for 2005-2006 and beyond. The 30 vessel owner/operators that are members of our association depend upon groundfish and Halibut for a major part of their livelihood. We particularly depend upon Lingcod and Halibut. With the overfishing of Canary and Yelloweye rockfish we have been extremely careful to avoid these species while still being able to fish in deeper water where Lings and Halibut are found. We have been able to keep within the harvest/mortality expectations listed on the groundfish “scorecard” for the past few years.

We feel very threatened by California's inability to adequately manage its recreational groundfish fishery. Our fishery was over by the time that the entire coast was closed last fall but we feel we are very much at risk this season with California starting earlier than last year.

Although we recognize that the data used to calculate California recreational catches may be flawed, it is the only data available at this time. Washington and Oregon are able to use dockside sampling in-season and in real time. California does not appear to be able to calculate catches within a month or two of their occurring and the accuracy is very questionable.

Separating the management would not threaten California's ability to fish but it would allow us to control our own destiny and to receive the benefits of our own conservative management. We urge you to adopt regional management of Lingcod and rockfish for the 2005-2006 management cycle.

Respectfully yours,

Steve Westrick, President
March 25, 2004

Mr. Donald Hanson, Chairman
Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 Ambassador Place, Suite 200
Portland, OR 97220

Re: 2005-2006 Ground fish management

Chairman Hanson and Council members,

My name is Larry Swanson and I am writing this letter on behalf of Southwest Washington Anglers. Our members fish for ground fish and halibut from Depoe Bay, Or to Neah Bay, Wa. We are concerned that the current coast wide ground fish management basis could severely limit our regional fisheries. We see no fairness in allowing one states excessive catch to possibly significantly reduce another states fishery. These various fisheries are of extreme economic value to our small coastal communities. We would urge you to develop management measures for 2005-2006 that would partition the catch into regions and assign the responsibility of management of these regions to the states. Thanks for your help.

Sincerely,

Larry Swanson
Executive Board
Southwest Washington Anglers
1701 Broadway, box 246
Vancouver, WA 98663
March 25, 2004

Mr. Dan Hanson
PFMC
7700 Ambassador Place
Suite 200
Portland, OR 97220

Chairman Hanson:

It has come to our attention that groundfish management has not addressed a serious issue concerning overfishing by one area impacting another area. We understand that this issue is to be addressed by the Council by June of this year.

To be short, and to the point. We believe that regional quotas, for groundfish, are necessary and should be implemented as soon as possible. We also believe that the individual states should be responsible for managing these regional quotas.

Thank you for your consideration of our views.

Sincerely,

Steve Watrous
President, Columbia Pacific Anglers
2515 Kauffman Ave
Vancouver, Wa 98660
March 22, 2004

Mr. Donald Hanson, Chairman
Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 Ambassador Place, Suite 200
Portland, OR 97220

Re: 2005-2006 Groundfish management

Dear Chairman Hanson and Council members:

My name is Robert Buckingham, Port Director for the Port of Neah Bay. I am writing today regarding management concerns for the recreational groundfish and halibut fisheries that originate from Neah Bay. The Port of Neah Bay has invested heavily in the newly constructed Makah Marina and additional upland facilities, that both support and are reliant on the recreational fisheries. A vibrant groundfish and halibut fishery are critically important to Neah Bay’s economy, as it is to other coastal communities relying on recreational fishing to survive.

We are extremely concerned that the lack of regional management on weak groundfish stocks will have a devastating effect on our ability to continue fishing healthier stocks. There is absolutely no fairness in allowing one state’s excessive catch to preclude fishing on otherwise healthy stocks of fish in the other states.

The Port of Neah Bay urges you to adopt management measures for 2005-2006 that partition the coast into regions and assign the responsibility for management in these regions to the individual states. Thank you for your help.

Respectfully yours,

[Signature]

Robert P. Buckingham
Port Director

cc: WDFW – Phil Anderson