

STATUS OF 2005 GROUND FISH FISHERIES AND INITIAL CONSIDERATION  
OF INSEASON ADJUSTMENTS

The Council set optimum yield (OY) levels and various management measures for the 2005 groundfish management season with the understanding these management measures will likely need to be adjusted periodically through the year with the goal of attaining, but not exceeding, the OYs.

The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) and the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) will meet on Monday and Tuesday (see Ancillary A and Ancillary B agendas) to discuss and recommend inseason adjustments to ongoing 2005 groundfish fisheries. Under this Agenda Item, the Council is to consider this advice and public comment on the status of ongoing fisheries and recommended inseason adjustments prior to adopting final changes as necessary. The Council may want to provide guidance to the GMT and GAP prior to making final inseason adjustments under Agenda Item B.7 on Friday or make final inseason adjustments under this Agenda Item and confirm or clarify the Council decision under Agenda Item B.7.

**Council Action:**

1. Consider information on the status of ongoing fisheries.
2. Consider and adopt inseason adjustments as necessary.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item B.6.d, Public Comment.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
- b. Report of the Groundfish Management Team
- c. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- d. Public Comment
- e. **Council Action:** Initial Consideration of Inseason Adjustments in the 2005 Groundfish Fishery

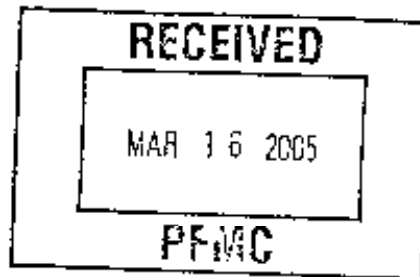
John DeVore  
Susan Ashcraft

PFMC  
03/18/05

THE CRESCENT CITY  
CHAMBER of COMMERCE  
Chris Howard  
1001 Front Street  
Crescent City, CA 95531

March 14, 2005

GREEN DIAMOND RESOURCES  
Chris Howard  
Orick, California



Re: Sport fishery cut-back and the economic disaster to Crescent City and Del Norte County.

Chris,

Just to bring you up to speed on what's going on. In 2003 the Federal Pacific Fishery Management Council in Portland, Oregon. Came up with an un-scientific study called estimating, according to their figures there were 432 metric tons of black rock fish caught in the northern California District that year, the California Department of Fish and Game lead the public to believe they did a scientific study, not so. The Federal Pacific Fishery Management Council then ordered the California Department of Fish and Game to start shorting the fishing seasons. We are a rural county here on the edge of the wilderness in Northern California, we have no problems with the numbers of rock fish in our area. It's time we all stood up to the Federal Government to get our constitutional and civil rights back.

In 2004 the Department of Fish and Game cut our fishing season to (7) months, with this shortened season Crescent City and Del Norte County suffered some tourism and revenue losses that year.

In 2005 the Department of fish and Game cut our season to just (4) months, the season this year runs from July 1<sup>st</sup> through October 31<sup>st</sup>. with the off shore weather we have here at Crescent city in the summer. the season will be less than a (4) month fishing season this year. Every one I know that fish the ocean waters are taking their business to Oregon this year because of the open fishing season. According to the Pacific Fishery Management Council, they plan on having another (4) month season in 2006. This is pure and simple, economic damage caused by the Federal Government to our small community. This County can not afford to let this continue.

We presently have a petition circulating in several cities in Northern and Central California and parts of Oregon. we started this petition drive on March 7, 2005. in this first week we collected approximately 1500 signatures, the originals copies were sent out by over-night mail on March 14, 2005 to the California Fish and Game Commission, they will be holding a meeting in Oakland CA. On March 18, 2005 to address this issue of the fishery cut-back, I will be mailing copies of these petitions to the Pacific Legal Foundation in Bellevue, Washington. We will continue to keep our petitions in circulation to collect more signatures until this issue is resolved. I would like to see the entire State of California get involved in this fight.

I attended a Crescent City Council meeting on March 7, 2005 and read a letter addressed to the City Council. Mayor Dennis Burns assured me the city will be involved in this issue. On March 10, 2005 I had a meeting with Chuck Blackburn of the Del Norte County Board of Supervisors. Chuck has put this issue on the agenda to be heard on March 22, 2005. At the next supervisors meeting.

On March 10, 2005 I took a copy of my letter to the editor to our local radio station KPOD, their news department has been running news segments all week long on our petition drive and the damage the State and Federal Government are doing to our community because of this fishery cut-back.

Inclosed you will find a copy of my letter to the Editor dated March 10, 2005. this article should appear in the news paper in the next couple of days. While I was in the office of the Daily Triplicate news room on March 14, 2005 the Editor Mike Schmeltzer ask me to speak to a reporter on the issue of the Sport Fishery cut-back and economic damage to Del Norte County.

Chris, I hope this information will give you some insight as to the kind of problems this fishery cut-back are causing in Del Norte County. if you have any other questions on issue please feel free to give me a call.

Harold Frazier  
200 Sorrel Ridge Road  
Crescent City, CA. 95531  
Phone, (707) 465-4901  
Fax, (707) 464-2586

Letter To The Editor  
The Daily Triplicate  
Mike Schmeltzer

March 10, 2005

Re: Sport fishery cut-back and the economic disaster to Crescent City and Del Norte County.

I'm a concerned resident and sport fisherman of this county, we have a very real problem facing Del Norte county, that started last year when the California Department of Fish and Game decided to cut our near shore or ground fishing season in 2004 by (5) five months, all of our businesses in Del Norte county suffered some revenue losses that year.

Now here we are in 2005 and the Department of Fish and Game is back at it again, instead of a (5) month closure, this year they will be cutting our ocean fishing season (8) eight months, the Department of Fish and Game charged the public \$33.35 for a fishing licenses to fish for twelve months, then they turned around and cut our fishing season to (4) four months, I personally think the Department of Fish and Game is way out of line on this one, I have a lot of friends here in Crescent City that fish the ocean waters, this year they are all taking their business to Brookings Oregon. As you know, tourism is the largest part of Del Norte counties revenue, this county can not afford to let this continue, Crescent City use to be a destination point, not so these days, every business in Crescent City will lose more revenue this year than they did last year, it will be the same in 2006 with another (4) four month fishing season if their not stopped, the Government will keep on taking until they run this county into the ground.

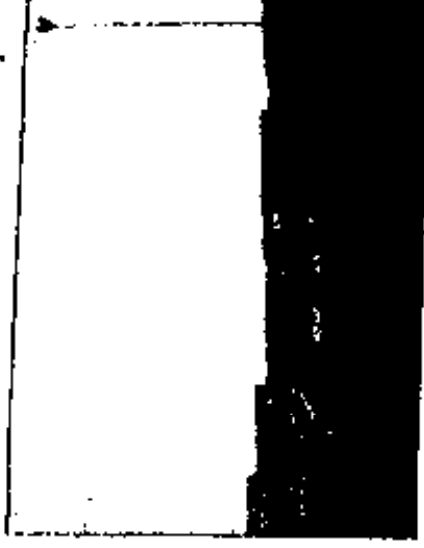
I am a sport fisherman and I fish 2 or 3 times a week and I can tell you, we have no problems with the numbers of bottom fish in our area, the Pacific Fishery Management Council lied to the public about doing a scientific study off the northern coast of California, they never did a scientific study, they just pulled the numbers out of thin air, in the last twenty years of fishing out of Crescent City I had one student from the University of California take a look at my rock fish catch, that was about ten years ago, know one from the Department of Fish and Game has ever counted or weighed my bottom fish catch in the twenty years I've fished here.

What I'm asking of the public is to write letters addressed to the Pacific Fishery Management Council in Portland, OR, and the Department of Fish and Game in Sacramento and Eureka, CA, explaining your feelings over the loss of tourism and revenue to Del Norte County because of this ground fishery cut-back over the last two years, we presently have a petition circulating in our area to help fight this action by the Department of Fish and Game in court if necessary, everyone in Crescent City should get out and sign these petition, they can be found at businesses around town. **You do not have to be a California resident to sign this petition.** I will be sending copies of these signed petitions to the Office of the Pacific Legal Foundation in Bellevue, Washington, the Pacific Legal Foundation is an origination that helps the public fight these government agencies. Im inclosing a copy of the agency address list for your conveniences.

For more information, contact:  
Harold Frazier  
200 Sorrel Ridge Road  
Crescent City, CA 95531  
Phone, (707) 465-4901, Fax,(707) 464-2586

2/15/05

# Harbor Commission to take up issue of recreational boat slips



The Day Tripper boats are stacked up at the harbor awaiting sale.

By Katherine Kerlin  
Tripletts staff writer

A year-long recreational groundfish season reduced to four weeks for 2005 and a dubious salmon season are expected to continue a trend of fewer recreational boaters using the slips at Crescent City Harbor's outer basin.

During tonight's meeting, the Harbor Commission will discuss how many slips to install for the coming summer season, which extends from May through October. The 31 slips recommended may be the fewest ever at the harbor.

"We're trying to take an analytical look of how many slips we should put in," said Harbormaster Richard Young. "We can't afford to waste any money if we don't need the slips, we don't want to put them in."

Of the 110 slips installed in 2004, only 69 were used during the peak season in July. The season average number of recreational boats moored at Crescent City Harbor fell from 77 in 1998 to just 31 in 2004.

A subcommittee is recommending to the Harbor Commission that 31 slips be installed this season.

Because the slips are more exposed to weather conditions, the har-



The Day Tripper boats are put in during Crescent City Harbor's summer season.

2/15/05  
1 of 2

2/15/05

# Harbor: Outer basin floats cost \$30,000-plus last year

(Continued from Page A1)

The cash-strapped harbor district spent more than \$30,000 installing, maintaining and removing outer basin floats during the 2004 season.

Dropping revenue for the harbor district has accompanied the declining recreational slip rentals. Outer basin revenue fell by 70 percent between 1998 and 2004 — from \$74,000 to \$22,000, with earnings in 2004 only half of those garnered in 2003.

A Harbor Commission report said the number of slips rented tends to increase with the opening of sport salmon season. That season will not be set by the Pacific Fishery Management Council until April. But concern about the rate of return from the 2002 Klamath River fish-kill is expected to keep strict regula-

## IF YOU GO

What: Harbor Commission meeting

When: 6:30 p.m. today

Where: Harbor District office, 101 Citizens Dock Road

tions in place.

Last year, some sport fishermen went to Brookings because of fewer salmon restrictions in Oregon than those in California.

This year's shortened groundfish season in California is expected to send even more sport fishermen north from Crescent City to Brookings.

Brookings Harbormaster Mike Blank said the Brookings harbor, with 750 commercial and recreational slips, is mostly booked for the season, but there may be some room for boats 24 feet and smaller.

The groundfish season reduction was deemed necessary by the Pacific Fisheries

Management Council to keep black rockfish harvests within catch limits.

The shortened season is based primarily on the recreational catch of black rockfish, which had a dramatic estimated one-year increase, from 200,618 pounds in 2002 to 952,387 pounds in 2003. The estimated figure is determined by a telephone survey, and some fishermen and harbor commissioners think it is incorrect.

Kenyon Hensel, a fishermen who has attended PFMC meetings, is expected to give a brief presentation tonight about the sport limit and possible ways to extend the season.

"Fish and Game has restrict-

ed the sport season out of erroneous information," said Hensel. "I don't like the fact people are unable to fish when there's no good reason for it. They go over the line to Brookings, where the stock of fish is the same."

Given the impact of the shortened season on the harbor, the commission may ask the California Department of Fish and Game to re-examine the decision, with the hope of extending the season.

The Harbor Commission said it is possible all recreational vessels could be accommodated in the inner basin, where commercial boats are moored.

However, it would be a longer walk for boat owners to reach their vessels than in the inner basin. This could be difficult for the elderly and those whose medical conditions make walking a task.

Another issue is sea lions, who congregate on the outer edge of the outer basin and often damage electrical wirings and water lines there.

To respond to these issues, the subcommittee is recommending running services only halfway along each dock and installing an additional sea lion dock that would be visible, but not accessible, to the public.

The subcommittee also recommends installing 41 slips in the outer basin rather than the 105 installed last year. Any overflow from recreational boaters may be accommodated in the inner basin.

The Harbor Commission has not yet agreed to the recommendations.

"Some people come back to the same slip year after year, and now we're talking about changing them," said Young. "That will not be popular with some folks. But we have to do something. When the world is changing around you, you've got to react to it. I hope people are patient and that people will adjust with us."

2/15/05  
2 af2

2/17/05 Editorial

## Sport fishery cutback not justified by science

**F**or as long as anyone can remember, sport anglers were allowed to go after groundfish out of Crescent City Harbor any time of the year. But this year, the California Department of Fish and Game is shortening the season to just four months.

There are certainly scenarios under which we would willingly accept a cutback, even one this drastic. If there was real scientific evidence that the fishery was endangered and in need of protection, we would endorse the shortening of the season. Preserving this important resource for the long term is reason enough to conserve today.

But the decision to cut short our groundfish season was based on data that nearly everyone views as highly suspect.

According to the federal Pacific Fisheries Management Council, the recreational catch of black rockfish in this district was up from 200,618 pounds in 2002 to 952,387 pounds in 2003.

That's a whopper of a one-year increase and, seen as part of a larger trend, legitimately might raise the specter of overfishing. Trouble is, these aren't actual catch numbers.

Instead, they're estimates based on telephone surveys that didn't even target licensed sport fishermen. The poundage numbers simply were extrapolated from a very small number of survey respondents who reported catching rockfish between Cape Mendocino and the California-Oregon state line.

We don't think this is reliable science — and we certainly don't think it ought to be the basis for highly restrictive regulations that could harm the local economy and have potentially devastating effects on Crescent City Harbor's role as a sport fishing port. We hear sport fishermen are heading in droves to Oregon this year and taking their dollars with them.

We urge the Department of Fish and Game to take a hard look at the catch estimates that led to this drastic cutback.

We hope the Harbor Commission will aggressively pursue the matter with both Fish and Game and the Pacific Fisheries Management Council.

And we suggest that local anglers, boat owners, business people and anyone else with a stake in the future of Crescent City's sport fishing industry also let their concerns be heard.

Together, we must demand regulations that reflect real science.

2/17/05

2/19/05

### Ocean sport fishing season cutback is too extreme

The new ocean fishing closure until July 1 ("Sport fishery cutback not justified by science," Editorial, Feb. 17) is a little extreme in my opinion.

I just bought a new boat a year ago last November. Now it's going to sit in the garage for eight months out of the year?

I live in Crescent City and the nearest decent lake to fish is three hours away. With the cost of gas spiraling up, it isn't cost effective to travel that far to fish with only two days off to do it in! Fishing off the

coast is all we have here with a boat.

You should take into consideration that the wind here blows more often than not. A lot of the time you can't even get out because of small craft warnings. You can only hope the ocean is fishable on your day off.

With only four months out of the year now to fish, the days we will be able to get out will be minimal.

With this critical decision, it will kill what few businesses we have up here. It will be an economical disaster. The fish and tackle shops will be devastated. The hotels, RV parks, restaurants, boat dealers, grocery stores, etc., will be greatly impacted. Fewer people will travel here for coastal activity. Mooring fees as well as launching fees will be lost.

Fish and Game should reconsider this closure and give back our fishing privileges that we pay for in our annual fishing license.

Dwane Griffin  
Crescent City

2/19/05

# Rockfish: 'Common sense says ... take another look'

(Continued from Page A1)  
The Fish and Game number is actually less than the harvest target of 1,58,732 pounds.

"The salient point for us is, if we're below the harvest target, why in the world are we getting our season cut back?" Crescent City Harbormaster Richard Young said.

When asked that same question, Deborah Aseltine-Neilson, a research analyst with Fish and Game, said comparing the two surveys is "like looking at apples and oranges."

While the catch levels were the state survey's findings, the harvest target numbers were based on the

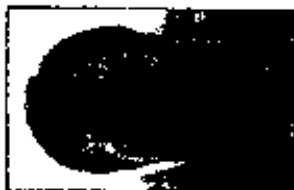
federal survey. Aseltine-Neilson said the two surveys' methods were too different to compare them.

But by September, Fish and Game expects to have a rough adjustment of the surveys that could potentially extend the groundfish season to the end of the year this year and next.

In 2003, the federal study was based on a random digit dialing telephone survey performed every other month in coastal California. If a fishing household was found, the occupants would be asked

when they last fished, from what type of boat, and how much fish they caught.

Fish and Game also uses a phone survey, but calls only licensed anglers. It also uses more on-site samplers in the field, is performed every month, and it covers six different areas instead of two used in the federal survey. One of those areas is the Del Norte/Humboldt region.



The groundfish season could be extended if Fish and Game, Pacific Fishery Management Council and the National Marine

Fisheries Service agree to review the previously recorded black rockfish catch and find it to be inaccurate.

"Just because 2006 is written in the regulations now doesn't mean it cannot be changed," said Aseltine-Neilson. "But that would have to happen through council process."

The Harbor Commission will discuss the matter at tonight's meeting. "According to the process (Pacific Fishery Management Council) established, they shouldn't change anything," said Young. "But common sense says we should take another look at these issues."



3/1/05 FROM THE DAILY TRIPLICATE

## Updated numbers for rockfish harvest may help extend season

By Katherine Kerlin  
*Triplicate staff writer*

A new survey of the 2003 black rockfish catch may give California sport fishermen and the Crescent City Harbor new hope of extending the season later this year and in 2006.

The year-round groundfish season was recently reduced to four months, between July and October, for both 2005 and 2006.

The 2003 federal Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistical Survey, used by the Pacific Fishery Management Council to determine the number of fish taken and catch limits, reported a catch of 952,387 pounds of black rockfish in 2003. It was a

### IF YOU GO

What: Harbor Commission meeting  
When: 6:30 p.m. today  
Where: Harbor District office, 101 Citizens Dock Road

dramatic increase from the 200,618 pounds caught in 2002.

That increase raised the eyebrows of local sport fishermen and others, who said it was too big.

The California Department of Fish and Game released its own survey in late February that showed a marked difference in data: 116,624 pounds caught versus the 952,387 pounds in the federal survey.

(See *Rockfish*, Page A10)

3/1/05

3/2/05

# Harbor calls for review of rockfish figures

By Katherine Martin  
*Triplicate staff writer*

The Crescent City Harbor Commission added its name to a growing list of those campaigning for a review of 2003 black rockfish figures that led to a reduction in the groundfish season from year-round to four months.

Figures from a new California Department of Fish and Game fish catch survey are decidedly lower than those reported by the federal Pacific Fishery Management Council. The state agency found 116,624 pounds of black rockfish

## ■ Fisherman allowed into Klamath suit, A3

were caught in 2004, while the federal agency found 952,387 pounds were caught in 2003.

During its meeting Tuesday, the Harbor Commission agreed to send a letter to the Pacific Fishery Management Council, which sets the fishery seasons, emphasizing the economic damage that such a limited season could cause to both the harbor and local fishermen.

"It appears to me there's no justification for restricting the season," said Harbormaster

Richard Young. "My recommendation is to pursue it vigorously as we can get this changed back to a 12-month season."

Sport fisherman Harold Frazier told the commission that he spoke with the Pacific Legal Foundation in Washington to get it involved in the issue.

"Businesses are going to lose money here every year," said Frazier. "This isn't going to stop until the government has a rope around our neck."

(See Fish, Page A3)

## Fish: State, federal figures appear at odds

(Continued from Page A1)

The state numbers appear to be below the target harvest level. But Department of Fish and Game officials say the figures should not be compared with those of the federal council because the surveys' methodologies differ significantly.

Sport and commercial fishermen are expected to make a strong showing regarding the issue at a March 17-18 meeting of the state Fish and Game Commission in Oakland.

Local fisherman Kenyon Hensel, who has been pursuing the issue, said a comparison of black rockfish catches in Brookings to those in Crescent City and Eureka suggest the federal survey's high numbers may not be possible.

Fishermen in Brookings caught 145,505 pounds of black rockfish with 376 sport fishing slips in 2003, while the Pacific Fishery Management survey said 952,387 pounds were caught with only 69 sport slips in Crescent

City and another 30 slips in Eureka.

"For us to catch that, we would need six or seven times as many boats as Brookings," said Hensel.

The Department of Fish and Game said Wednesday there is a chance the season may be extended toward the end of this year and into 2006 if the Pacific Fishery Management Council determines that the new information is more accurate after the figures have been adjusted for comparison.

3/2/05

## 2005 Recreational Groundfish Season Background.

The recreational groundfish season in Northern California (from approximately Cape Mendocino to the OR/CA border) is scheduled to open July 1, 2005 and close October 31, 2005.

This reduced season results from the estimated Black Rockfish catch of 432 metric tons in this area in 2003. This estimated 2003 catch is

- Almost four times larger than any previous year.
- Almost five times larger than in 2002.
- Eight times larger than the catch in 2004.
- Over six times larger than the catch in Brookings during 2003.

Year	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
BR Catch	81	52	68	71	56	138	91	432	53

The 2003 catch is so large that it is just not believable.

In March of 2005 the California Department of Fish and Game produced a report estimating the 2004 recreational catch of Black Rockfish at 52.9 metric tons. This was well within the target harvest of 72 metric tons. (This report is available on the internet at [http://www.pcouncil.org/bb/2005/0305/tr\\_2.pdf](http://www.pcouncil.org/bb/2005/0305/tr_2.pdf)). A table is attached.

According to the most recent stock assessment (July, 2003, p. iv) "The northern California-Oregon stock of black rockfish is in healthy condition, with 2002 spawning output estimated to be 49% of the unexploited level. This places the stock well above the management target level of B(40%)."

The California Fish and Game Commission will reconsider recreational rockfish seasons at their meeting in Oakland on March 18, 2005. Letters, phone calls, emails, and signing this petition will help us bring this to their attention.

**California Fish and Game Commission**  
**1416 Ninth Street**  
**Sacramento, California 95814**  
**(916) 653-4899**  
**Email [fgc@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:fgc@dfg.ca.gov)**

To the California Fish and Game Commission:

March 2005

The most recent estimate from the California Department of Fish and Game indicates the 2004 recreational catch of Black Rockfish in the Northern California area was 52.9 metric tons. This catch resulted from a seven month season in 2004, and was LESS than the target harvest of 72 metric tons.

Because recreational fishermen were UNDER their target harvest in 2004 with a seven month season, we request that you reconsider this years regulations and open the Northern California recreational groundfish season May 1, 2005 and allow it to remain open until December 31, 2005 or until such time as the target harvest is attained.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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MARCH 15, 2005

# Groundfish limit spurs petition

## Signatures gathered to fight shortened season

By Matt Masis  
*Tribstar staff writer*

A local sport fisherman is rousing Northern California and Southern Oregon residents against a controversial regulation that he contends could turn Crescent City into a ghost town.

In 2004, California's recreational

groundfish season was shortened from year-round to seven and a half months. This year, it was further limited to four months, July to October.

Harold Frazier of Crescent City said Monday that in one week he collected 1,500 signatures on a petition seeking to have the recreational

groundfish season reopened in May and kept open year-round again. He said he circulated the petition from Medford to Sacramento.

Frazier planned to have the petition delivered overnight Monday to the California Fish and Game Commission, which is scheduled to

discuss the issue during sessions Thursday and Friday in Sacramento.

Frazier said limiting bottom fishing to the July-October period will hurt the local economy across the board.

"It's like a stack of dominos. If the fishing goes, the tourism goes. When the tourism goes, business starts to suffer, and they are already suffering," Frazier said.

(See Fish, Page A12)

## Fish: Petition seeks year-round season

(Continued from Page A1)

The season was shortened based on federal Pacific Fishery Management Council figures showing a catch of 952,387 pounds of black rockfish in 2003, a dramatic increase from the 200,618 pounds caught in 2002.

That report raised the eyebrows of local sport fishermen, who said it was too big.

"To get those kind of numbers, we would have had 50 times as many boats fish out of this harbor," Frazier said Monday.

The California Department of Fish and Game released its own survey in February that showed a marked difference in data — 116,624 pounds caught.

The federal numbers were based on a random monthly telephone survey of California coastal areas. If fishing households were

*"We hope the decision is made on the best possible scientific data available."*

— Chris Howard, vp Del Norte-Crescent City Chamber of Commerce

called, they were asked how much groundfish they caught, from what kind of boat and when they last fished.

"That's not scientific. They polled those numbers out of thin air," Frazier said.

Frazier believes the state numbers are accurate, because they jive with historical catch amounts as well as with his personal experi-

ence. The state also used a phone survey, but called only licensed anglers. It also used skippers in the field.

Also, the state survey covered six different areas instead of the two used in the federal survey. One of those six areas was the Del Norte/Humboldt region.

The groundfish season could be lengthened if authorities review the federal figures and find them inaccurate.

"We hope the decision is made on the best possible scientific data available," said Chris Howard, vice president of the Del Norte-Crescent City Chamber of Commerce.

"Any further closure of the current sportfishing season would have a significant effect on our local economy and would have a trickle-down effect on our whole community," Howard said.

B/15/05



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**377 J STREET CRESCENT CITY, CALIFORNIA 95531-4088**

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**Administration/Finance: 707-464-7483**

**Public Works/Planning: 707-464-9508**

**Utilities: 707-464-8517**

**FAX: 707-466-4408**

March 11, 2005

Pacific Fishery Management Council  
77000 NE Ambassador Place  
Portland OR 97220-1384

Gentlepersons:

The recent development in the recreational ground fish regulations is of much concern to the City of Crescent City and its residents. As you know, we have a deep and strong interest in both the commercial and sport fishing activities of our area. Any reduction in this season would have a detrimental effect on our economy and way of life.

We feel that the Black Rockfish catch of 432 metric tons during 2003 is much larger than in previous years. Also, the recreational catch of this species at 52.8 metric tons was well within the target harvest of 72 metric tons in 2004.

Because of the above data, we are requesting that you reconsider this years regulations and open the Northern California recreational ground fish season on May 1, 2005, and allow it to remain open until December 31, 2005, or until such time as the target harvest of 72 metric tons is attained.

Sincerely,

Dennis Burns  
Mayor  
City of Crescent City, CA

DB:dn



377 J STREET CRESCENT CITY, CALIFORNIA 95531-4026

Administration/Finance: 707-464-7483  
Utilities: 707-464-8517

Public Works/Planning: 707-464-9506  
FAX: 707-465-4405

March 11, 2005

RECEIVED

Pacific Fishery Management Council  
77000 NE Ambassador Place  
Portland, OR 97220-1384

MAR 16 2005

REC'D

Gentlepersons:

The recent development in the recreational ground fish regulations is of much concern to the City of Crescent City and its residents. As you know, we have a deep and strong interest in both the commercial and sport fishing activities of our area. Any reduction in this season would have a detrimental effect on our economy and way of life.

We feel that the Black Rockfish catch of 432 metric tons during 2003 is much larger than in previous years. Also, the recreational catch of this species at 52.9 metric tons was well within the target harvest of 72 metric tons in 2004.

Because of the above data, we are requesting that you reconsider this years regulations and open the Northern California recreational ground fish season on May 1, 2005, and allow it to remain open until December 31, 2005, or until such time as the target harvest of 72 metric tons is attained.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis Burns", written over a white background.

Dennis Burns  
Mayor  
City of Crescent City, CA

DB:dn