

Subject: [Fwd: 030706E] Groundfish Comments
From: "PFMC Comments" <pfmc.comments@noaa.gov>
Date: Tue, 21 Mar 2006 11:01:50 -0800
To: John DeVore <John.DeVore@noaa.gov>

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Subject: 030706E
From: "Mike O'neil" <mijomar@charter.net>
Date: Tue, 21 Mar 2006 10:59:16 -0800
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In reality, current regulatory restrictions, probably need to be stricter then you will propose as regards rulings on the ground fish commercial catch. I quit the business in the mid sixties due to the unavoidable loss to the ground fish 'recruitment' biomass due to the increasing ratio of 'by-catch' to usable saleable product per haul. We were slowly killing the ' Golden Goose' as it were. A complete ban on bottom trawling should be enacted and enforced, period. The system worked when there were fewer trawlers, smaller markets, more fish and when we were blissfully ignorant of the destruction being caused by the industry. All of the target species, both historic and current, can be caught on a long line, the old tried and true ' mothership-dory ' system, (with some modern adjustments to the system) True, there will be some tough adjustments to be made, but at least we can harvest a resource and not destroy it at the same time...with good oversight, the resource should get better each succeeding season. This may be our last chance to allow it to recover. Over time, the process would be less expensive than current technology, including labor. The resource will re-establish itself within seven or so years if the ' bottom' is allowed to recover. More fishermen will be gainfully employed, the resource will continue to rebuild and markets will adjust until full potential production of product is restored. We have no choice, but to admit past mistakes, put supply and demand quota's on hold and begin anew. There is more to discuss, but not in this venue. M.O'Neill

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