

Federation of Independent Seafood Harvesters

PO Box 352
Bridgewater Corners, VT 05035

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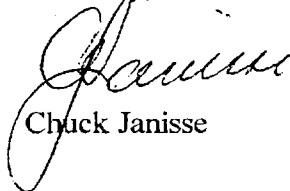
Donald Hansen, Chairman,
Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101
Portland, OR 97220-1384

PFMC

Dear Don,

As you know, the Council recommended NMFS issue an EFP to allow a single vessel to use longline gear to fish within the West Coast EEZ from September to December 2007. The purpose of this EFP is to test the business feasibility of longline gear as an alternative to drift gillnet gear. Longline gear may result in lower incidental take of protected species, as well as higher fish bycatch survivability than with drift gillnet gear. During the Council's evaluation and discussion of the 2007 EFP it was made clear that a similar EFP may be requested for 2008, pending the results of this year's EFP longline fishery. Council Operating Procedure #20 establishes a schedule for review of EFPs by the HMSMT and HMSAS at the June Council meeting and Council final action at the September meeting in the year before the EFP fishery would be prosecuted. With this letter I wish to indicate to you that we may want to submit a proposal for 2008. However, a detailed proposal cannot be submitted at this time without a review of preliminary results from the 2007 fishery before we decide whether or not to go forward with a subsequent EFP, and if we do, what such an EFP would test. We request that you consider varying your review schedule so that it would occur in the November 2007–April 2008 time frame, so that NMFS could issue the EFP by September 2008. This is the same time frame as was used for the current EFP.

Sincerely,



Chuck Janisse