Coos Bay Trawlers' Association, Inc.
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September 6, 2007

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

Dear Don Hansen, Don McIsaac and Council Members,

On August 1, 2007, Coos Bay Trawlers’ Association (CBTA) sent a letter to all limited entry trawl permit holders to survey the fleets’ opinion on linking the ITQ program to a two-thirds referendum vote. The reasons CBTA wanted to survey the permit holders were explained in the cover letter that accompanied the voting cards (copy attached).

One hundred seventy-six cards were mailed and 32% of those cards were returned. Almost 88% of the returned cards indicated the desire for a referendum vote while 12% opposed the notion. While the response was greater than most surveys (32%), 68% did not chose respond at all. But the fact remains that 88% were in favor of the referendum vote by permit holders before the program is implemented.

On behalf of those that did respond, we ask the Council to consider conducting a referendum vote to approve the trawl dedicated access program before it is implemented.

Sincerely,

Steve Bodnar, Executive Director
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A Non-Profit Organization Since 1977

August 1, 2007

Dear Limited Entry Permit Holder:

As you know, the Pacific Fishery Management Council is working on a dedicated access program (Individual Quota System) for the limited entry trawl fleet. Three years of planning have gone into the effort thus far and a mandate included in the Re-authorization of the Magnuson - Stevens Act has provided a tight time line for getting the program designed.

Unlike the New England or the Gulf Councils who worked to get referendum language in the Magnuson - Stevens Act about their own IQ programs, our Council doesn’t feel the need to have such a referendum in place for the program being developed for our trawl fleet. Instead, our Council has been involved in a political tug-of-war which has delayed the process, caused an attempt to usurp the Council process by invoking congressional interference and caused disension amongst the trawlers. While most trawlers believe that an ITQ program will reduce discards, processors look at the program as a windfall in control and profit for themselves. Its not a matter of conservation of resources or a way to decrease discards for the processors, it a matter of money.

IT IS THE TRAWL FISHERMEN that will make the program work the way it is intended and we should have the final word if the program designed by the COUNCIL SHOULD BE IMPLEMENTED OR NOT. We need to make sure that politics (those with the most money to influence the Council and Congress) is not the driving factor behind our DAP (dedicated access privilege). WE NEED TO DEMAND A REFERENDUM VOTE BY THE FLEET BEFORE THE PROGRAM IS IMPLEMENTED.

Enclosed is a postcard asking the Council to link the IQ program to a referendum vote by the fleet. If the Council chooses program components that are unreasonable or unacceptable to the fleet, the fleet should have an opportunity to reject program components or the entire program by a 2/3 vote of the fleet. If an unreasonable program is the end product, then the fleet would have the final word through a democratic process and send it back to the drawing board for amendments and improvements. A simple vote by the fleet would remove the politics being deployed and give us some assurance that the program is fair, just and equitable. Please take the time to check your vote and sign your name to require a referendum vote by the fleet on the Individual Trawl Quota Program.

Thank you,

Steve Bodnar, Executive Director
Referendum Survey Vote Results

Letter/Card sent out........176

Cards returned.............57  32.39%

Cards not returned.........120  67.61%

Cards in favor............50  87.72%

Cards opposed.............7   12.28%
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Stephen Morgan  smorgan@clsamerica.com  +1.240.492.1922

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“Generic” Iridium Data Modem
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~ TST

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Provides automatic connectivity between vessel and Iridium satellites. May be mounted anywhere on the vessel with a view of the sky.

Provides flexible interconnect with vessel power, TST, and inside-mounted communications gear (computer or “DTE”).
Data Terminal Equipment

Small computer terminal, includes vertical or flat-mounted tower, screen, and wireless keyboard. Enables on-line data display, generation and receipt of e-mail and e-forms, flexible communications ashore with NOAA, homeport, vessel owner, and others.

Screen

Bright, flat-panel, full-color display screen, with adjustable mounting.
• Halios On-Line Services:
  → Displays vessel position and track
  → Two-way e-mail capability
  → Electronic e-forms (*NOAA, company-defined*); supports over-the-air updates
  → Geo-fencing and boundaries
  → Port-Mode detection
  → Assistance-mode detection
  → Additional services under development
• **Hardware:**
  – $1,990 **TST** includes warranty
  – $1,390 **DTE** includes warranty
  *spare components, cables also available*

• **Airtime Service:**
  – $620 per year ... covers basic NOAA rqmts
  – or $65 per month NOAA rqmts, monthly billing
  – $2.75 per message* additional e-mails, data, e-Forms
    *(NOAA- or company-defined)*
  *based upon max 2-kbyte data package*

† Pricing subject to change, and is dependent upon specific contract; fleet discounts are available for installations of 3+ vessels with same owner.
• Pre-prototype testing
  – deployed in Sept 2006 from Dutch Harbor

• Mock-ups available today

Units developed by Kenwood available for form-factor evaluation. TST shown mounted on fishing vessel in Japan in August 2007.

• Operational prototypes in late Sept 2007
  – will be submitted for NOAA/NMFS approval
    • national certification
    • regional EMTU certification for all U.S. fisheries regions

• Full-scale availability planned for Jan 2008
  – actual time dependent upon NOAA certification
Re: Limited Entry/Access Discussion; HMS Permit Moratorium

Mr. Chairman and members of the Council,

My name is Chip Bissell. I am here today on behalf of the American Albacore Fishing Association, a nonprofit corporation of commercial fishing vessels that participate in the West Coast troll & bait-boat albacore fishery.

The possibility of a limited entry program for this albacore fishery has been mentioned in recent years in some of the Council’s situation summary documents on albacore-related items. However, the issue has yet to gain much attention.

With international resolutions calling for caps on effort, and the recent albacore stock assessment recommending future reductions in fishing mortality, it is more and more apparent that steps need to be taken to address the “open access” feature of the albacore fishery. We are aware of the need for ensuring adequate time for thorough analysis of the issues, as well as time to explore various means toward accomplishing this objective. For these reasons, we believe that discussions toward developing a limited entry program should be started.

Accordingly, AAFA requests that the Council assign its HMS Management Team and Advisory Subpanel to begin discussions of a limited entry program for the West Coast albacore fishery.

AAFA believes that an effective and sound limited entry program will help ensure the future of this sustainable fishery, its participants, and the fishing communities and coastal economies it supports.

Related to AAFA’s request for initiating discussions toward a limited entry program, is AAFA’s concern over the continued issuance of HMS permits.

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1 AAFA is founded upon the belief that, by promoting the environmental benefits of the troll and/or pole & line fisheries and promoting the health benefits of tuna consumption, the economic viability of these traditional troll and/or pole & line fisheries can be sustained.
Pacific Fishery Management Council  
Re: Limited Entry/Access Discussion; HMS Permit Moratorium  
(Cont'd.)

In light of international resolutions and stock assessment recommendations, AAFA requests the Council support establishing a 10 year moratorium on HMS permits for those gear types that harvest significant amounts of albacore.

Such a moratorium would moderate short term future increases in albacore fishing capacity and effort, and would help stabilize fishing mortality while the Council evaluates and develops a more comprehensive limitation program.

In summary, AAFA respectfully requests the Council direct its HMS Management Team and Advisory Subpanel to begin discussions of a limited entry program for the West Coast albacore fishery, and that the Council recommend to the National Marine Fisheries Service the implementation of a 10 year moratorium on issuance of HMS permits for albacore gear types.

I thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

/Chip Bissell/  
Chip Bissell  
AAFA representative
Coldwater Coral and Sponge Protection off Washington

B. Enticknap

PFMC Open Public Comment. September 10, 2007

Photos: OCNMS
- Coral and sponge communities at 14 of 15 dive sites
- 17 coral species
- Reef building sponges
- Evidence of fishing induced habitat damage
Gray’s Canyon
Glass Sponge Reef

“The Washington reef is at least 2,000 feet long and up to 10 feet tall.”
§ 105 “(B) designate such zones in areas where deep sea corals are identified under section 408, to protect deep sea corals from physical damage from fishing gear or to prevent loss or damage to such fishing gear from interactions with deep sea corals, after considering long-term sustainable uses of fishery resources in such areas; and