



Agenda Item D.2.d  
Supplemental Public Comment 4  
November 2007

November 2, 2007

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

RE: Agenda Item D.2.a, Attachment 3

Dear Chairman Hansen:

I am writing to relay my strong support for the Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) to fish trawl permits with trap, pot, hook-and-line and longline gear in a community based fishing association. I urge the Pacific Fishery Management Council to approve this application at its November meeting.

Regulations to protect habitat and overfished stocks, market dislocations, increasing costs and diminishing harvest opportunities, as well as buyouts to reduce trawl capacity have taken their toll on many small communities – such as Morro Bay and Port San Luis - that have historically fished the groundfish resource on the West Coast. This project offers a unique opportunity to turn this trend around and improve both the sustainability of the fishery and the community.

This EFP is an innovative partnership between fishermen, harbor masters, conservation organizations, and fishery managers. It will show that, by allowing the switch from trawl to fixed gear and by working cooperatively at the local level, fishermen can do better both economically and environmentally. This will provide information to fishery managers that may be useful in rationalizing the groundfish trawl fishery and particularly in developing the guidelines for cooperative management under Regional Fishing Associations.

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Not only will this EFP demonstrate its objectives, but in the long run it will pave the way toward the creation of more fishing opportunities for hook-and-line and trap fishermen – starting in Morro Bay and Port San Luis. I believe this proposal to be a step in the right direction toward restoring our local fisheries and I urge the Council to approve it.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mike Chrisman".

Mike Chrisman  
Secretary for Resources