

GARIBALDI CHARTERS

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Mr. Donald K. Hanson
Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place
Portland, Oregon 97220-1384

Dear Mr. Hanson,

The Charter offices located at the Port of Garibaldi, in Garibaldi, Oregon would like to support an EFP proposal by John Holloway, a sport representative for Oregon on the Groundfish Advisory subPanel for the PFMC. The EFP being requested is for a mid-water fishery targeting yellowtail rockfish outside of the 40 fathom closure area. We believe that this mid-water fishery will not significantly impact protected yelloweye rockfish whose habitat is on, or near the bottom of their rocky reef habitat, and not in the mid-water areas of the ocean.

The charter boat captains are anxious to be part of this experiment. As you well know, the increasing regulations caused by ever decreasing yelloweye quota are becoming so restrictive that we fear the loss of our livelihoods, especially here in Garibaldi.. The latest round of closures in our area caused us to be forced inside of the 20 fathom line in July and reduced our rockfish bag limits to 5 fish.

Many of our customers have questioned the worth of continuing to fish with us if they have to pay \$85 for only 5 fish. Far worse, was the 20 fathom closure. Garibaldi does not have the amount of rocky reef areas that many other ports do. The 40 fathom closure took away half of our productive reefs. The 20 fathom closure took away more than half of what was left. ODFW was able to verify this with their maps, but were too concerned about exceeding the yelloweye by-catch quota to change anything until recently. It is now too late as many of our customers will not be back.

The proposed yellowtail EFP could save us if these types of closures are enacted again in the following years. We cannot overemphasize what this type of fishery could mean to us and our customers if the experiment works. We have all agreed to abide by every condition of the EFP and to spend our time and effort, free of charge, in order to help Mr. Holloway conduct this yellowtail experiment. We know yellowtail to be an abundant and high quality fish that we currently have little access to under the 40 fathom closure.

This is the first time that many of us can remember when a fishery for recreational fishermen could have the potential to be opened up instead of being closed down. We hope you will agree to let Mr. Holloway proceed with this EFP proposal.

Sincerely,

Joe Ockenfels
Siggi-G Charters

John & Linda Brown
Kerri Lin Charters

Mick & Linda Buell
Garibaldi Charters