

Point Conception Groundfishermen's Association
Santa Barbara, CA

February 16, 2016

Ms. Dorothy Lowman, Chair
Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101
Portland, OR 97220-1384
RE: Agenda Item G.3 (2017/2018 Management Measures)

Dear Madam Chair,

The Point Conception Groundfishermen's Association (PCGA) represents commercial fixed gear fishermen in Southern California. Our members fish for groundfish using various types of hook and line gears such as vertical H&L, longline as well as rod and reel.

The PCGA wishes to recommend moving the southern California Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) boundary depth line currently at 60 fathoms out to a new line at 75 fathoms. This would be for the area from 34°27' N latitude south to the Mexican border.

The original implementation of this RCA back in 2001 was to protect depressed Bocaccio stocks. The latest Bocaccio stock assessment conducted in 2015 suggests the stock will be rebuilt in 2017 thus the PCGA believes a more liberal RCA can be accommodated. Prior to the implementation of this RCA our members targeted Chilipepper rockfish and believe we should be allowed access to those healthy stocks once again.

We would like to remind the Council that the fixed gear commercial fishery is fully monitored via VMS and that those VMS regulations are about to change in the next management cycle that will cause our members to incur new additional costs to continue that monitoring. Being as we are the only monitored groundfish fishery we feel we are fully justified in making this request.

We thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Tim Athens,
PCGA

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Paavo Carroll** <paavoc@hotmail.com>

Date: Mon, Feb 29, 2016 at 9:31 PM

Subject: groundfish/salmon comments

To: "pfmc.comments@noaa.gov" <pfmc.comments@noaa.gov>

I have three wishes, offhand, regarding the upcoming season. I have made a modest living fishing for salmon and groundfish for 17 years now and fished before that as a crewman. My boats are the Titan and the Esther Louise, old wood trollers.

1. Given that canary rockfish are now apparently rebuilt (not that I ever noticed any particular change in abundance over the last 17 years), I hope that trollers will be allocated a bit of their traditional catch so we can start keeping our bycatch. These fish are particularly useful to the smaller fish businesses that dot the coast as they can sell rockfish easily to the people that patronize them and they can pay us a better price for the "bycatch" than the majors. We get our fuel and costs defrayed, the small businesses are happy, everyone is happy. I suggest 200 lbs a month with a 2 to one pound ratio similar to what is done for widow rockfish.

2. For salmon, I like the fall fisheries. Please keep the september Pt. Reyes fishery if possible. I understand it may not be possible to keep the september/october fisheries up north as the stocks are no doubt in peril but if possible please do so even if under severe limits. If the weekly limits are low enough no one will do it except those that really need to.

3. Given that salmon fishing is likely to be curtailed and bad for the foreseeable future, increase the ling cod limits. Early indications apparently are, according to a presentation I just saw given by some CAL POLY researchers, that the MPA's in California are so far serving as little more than de facto lingcod breeding areas, imperiling rockfish rebuilding, and indeed flying in the face of everything so called ecosystem based management purports to try to achieve. (At least that's how I interpreted it!), so, one might think it would be easy enough to mitigate this by increasing the ling cod limits and throwing a lifeline to beleaguered salmon operations. Apparently there is little disagreement that the lingcod are doing well, indeed too well by half, so this would seem a no brainer.

Thank you.

Paavo Carroll F/V Titan