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MAR 17 2014 March 11, 2014

TO: PFMC  
committee chairman;

PFMC

Subject: year round Ling cod fishery

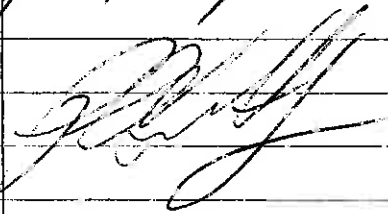
First let me say a bit about myself. I have been a commercial fisherman for the better part of 15 years. I have participated in many fisheries. I have worked on a dragger in the Bering Sea all the way down to a Jig boat fishing for Rock fish. I have supported my family off this industry. I have over the years worked my way to owning and operating my own vessel. I still have youth on my side and would like nothing more than to continue supporting my family this way.

The main reason for my letter is to support the consideration of a year round ling cod fishery. The ling cod stock is very strong and at present producing lots of quality fish. I would be very supportive of a sustained 400 lbs/month quota year round Jan 1 - Dec 31. This would do a few different things for us as fishermen. Ling cod are very plentiful possibly increasing our activity in harvest would help control some predation on the juvenile stocks of other Rock fish species. Also gives us an accountable source of income thru winter months.

To close I think all parties involved  
would benefit from a year round fishery.  
Thank you for your time.

Paul H. Garrett Jr

F/V Fantasy



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I have ~~RECENT~~ Learned about the plans to cut our Kelp greening & China Rock quotas. The data you used for the Kelp greening and China Rock was a joke. None of the correct data was used. Commercial fisherman that are out there trying to make a living, are also keeping log book on what they catch and release. If you look at the log books and or talk to commercial fisherman that are out there everyday. Please do not make changes on Quotas by using poor data. This will affect the livelihood of many.

Sport fishing is not the same as commercial fishing, they do not put the time in nor do they keep log books.

You are looking at commercial fisherman livelihood but asking sport fisherman for the answers.

Please check other data before you make a decision on our future.

Thank you  
Vickie Nowlin  
Seaford buyer

I am a Seafood buyer for  
Nor Cal Seafood in Port Orford, OR. as  
we all watch the Rockfish Quota  
dropping it makes it hard to keep  
fishing and most of the time not covering  
expenses. So I am writing to you to  
ask for a Ling Cod Quota for the  
winter months to help the fishermen out  
financially. There are a lot of Ling Cod  
out there. If you look at the fisherman  
log book you can see the number of  
fish released. A small Quota would  
help compensate the other low quotas  
that they are trying to deal with.

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Thank you

Veith Nishi  
Nor Cal Seafood buyer

SIRS: A LADY'S OF PFMC-

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I Am waiting you concerns in your

PREPOSED CUT IN THE NEARSHORE FISHERY TO  
GREENLAND & CHINA ROCKFISH. I AM NOT  
FOR THIS FOR FOLLOWING REASONS

1. HERE IN OREGON BOTH SPICES ARE ABUNDANT.
2. CUTTING QUOTA WOULD DAMAGE MY FINANCIAL  
A LOT. THERE FOR MAKING MY PEARL IT'S LESS  
VALUABLE AND ME & MY FELLO FISHERS WOULD  
NOT BE ABLE TO HELP OUR FISHERY TOWN.
3. YOUR DATA IS FLAWED - YOU SHOULD USE OREGON  
DATA; THEY CHECK & RECORD ALL INFO ON FISHING  
SPECIES. WE FISHERS HAVE NO PROBLEM'S CATCHING  
OUR COMMERCIAL QUOTA. PLEASE CONSIDER OUR  
POSITION. THANK YOU THOMAS ASHBOURN  
REPRESENTING M/S CUREY - IRISH-ROSE - FRIENDSHIP -  
WAVE ON - ANDRE FRANKS - SPECKLE - SOUTHWARD -  
-ASH - SPRITE - GUNNER - OREGON - THANKS

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March 14, 2014

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

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Dear Council Members,

My name is Evan Locke, and I have been a commercial fisherman for seven years fishing from Charleston to Brookings, primarily fishing out of Port Orford along the Port Orford Reef. The Port Orford Reef has been the most heavily fished area by commercial fishermen for years and years; yet, Sea Trout and China Rockfish continue to be plentiful, which demonstrates their sustainability.

I typically release double the quota of Sea Trout during the two-month quota period because I catch them without trying to, which demonstrates the abundance of this species. Also, less than five percent of what I catch have to be released due to being under the legal size of 12 inches. I am far more likely to catch the legal-size fish than not because the guidelines that are already in place as to size limits mean the younger fish are returned to the ocean to grow to maturity. I am able to catch the current quota of 300 pounds per 2-month period in four to five days, which again demonstrates the abundance of Sea Trout. Sea Trout are a fast-growing and fast-reproducing species with a relatively short life span of about seven years. These fish live at depths of one to forty fathoms in a wide range of habitats, all of which is based on my hands-on experience as a commercial fisherman.

The data the council is using based on sport catch per unit effort is not a valid assessment of the health and welfare of either the Sea Trout or China Rockfish populations. Sport fishermen do not seek out Sea Trout or China Rockfish—they fish for Ling Cod and Black Snapper, and they do not fish over the rocky areas where the Sea Trout and China Rockfish are found because they are very likely to lose their fishing equipment as they are not skilled in fishing in such a formidable environment. Therefore, data relative to the sport fishing industry is not a true measure of the health and well-being of the Sea Trout and China Rockfish populations, and I haven't seen any reduction in either fish population. It is important to note that the depth range from beyond 20 fathoms was closed for several years with it just re-opening for commercial fishing in 2013. Most China Rockfish are found in the waters off of Port Orford and Gold Beach due to those areas having the best near-shore habitats within 20 fathoms.

I have logbook data and fish tickets which support my statements relative to the live fish I catch, and I feel that the fish tickets and logbooks of commercial fishermen as well as observer data should be the basis for assessing the health and welfare of the Sea Trout and China Rockfish populations. A reduction in quotas would be very detrimental to the livelihoods of commercial fishermen as well as the buyers of these fish. These types of restrictions not only impact the fishermen and the buyers, but always have a trickle-down effect on the economic welfare of many others employed in this industry.

Please understand that it is imperative to all commercial fishermen that the habitat is sustainable, and it has been and continues to be so. It benefits everyone from the fishermen to the consumer to maintain this status quo, and there are no signs it is in any danger of changing. I urge the council to refrain from reducing the quotas on Sea Trout or China Rockfish without accurate scientific data that definitively demonstrates that these species are in danger. The council needs to take the time to thoroughly analyze data from a variety of sources before making such a monumental decision.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Evan Locke".

Evan Locke  
830 Allegany Ave. SW  
Bandon, OR 97411  
(541)-670-3219  
E-Mail: [EvanLocke96@yahoo.com](mailto:EvanLocke96@yahoo.com)

Dear Pacific Management Council Member

I am writing to request a incidental lingcod limit for Dec-April So I don't have to throw the lingcod I am catching back while I'm engaged in my nearshore rock Fish Fishery. It has become a growing problem as the lingcod stocks appear to be growing substantially. Our Markets would love to have them and the extra money would make a huge difference in our Fishery. I'm really tired of wasting effort that time of year by throwing them back while a recreational Fisherman or an IFQ Fisherman fishing next to me can keep them.

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Sincerely,  
Paul Meyer  
Flv Aftershock  
Port of Garibaldi, Or