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To: PFMC Salmon Advisory Subpanel

Subject: Letter in **Support of Alternative II** for the 2013 Salmon season.

Pacific Choice Seafoods, here in Eureka CA, **supports Alternative II** for the 2013 Salmon Season. This is the only viable option for commercial salmon trollers, buyers like us and customers to have access to the healthy salmon stocks right off our coast while the fish are still in the local waters. This would mark the first time since the mid 80's that what is left of our local troll salmon fleet, wouldn't have to leave town to make a living. The commercial sector has been overlooked within the KMZ and it is about time that our sacrifices over the last 30 years are recognized with even a small summer fishery compared to the nearly unrestricted open seasons to the South and the North of us.

We thank you for your **Support of Alternative II**.

Kirk Younker



Pacific Choice Seafoods



Cape Flattery Fishermen's Cooperative

PO Box 775

Neah Bay, Washington 98357

Phone: 360.645.2231

Facsimile: 360.645.2232

March 29, 2013

To Whom It May Concern:

I, David Brown have worked as a fish buyer and processor in Neah Bay, Washington for the past 14 years. Within the past 4 years I have also served as the Marketing Manager for Cape Flattery Fishermen's Cooperative. I feel strongly that the Washington Trollers need to retain their 3 to 1 ratio with Chinook and Halibut in the May – June Troll Fishery.

As a rule the market price for Halibut is stronger in May and June. However, July thru September Salmon is in very high demand. Because of this, Halibut prices drop. Also, in my experience there are far more "chalky" Halibut in the warmer weather months (July, August, and September). Even though "chalky" Halibut can still be sold, there is a loss in the full value of fish. So, for marketing purposes I pay a higher rate for Halibut in the first half of the troll season. I also feel that the quality is overall better early in the season, rather than later.

In closing I would like to stress the importance of keeping the 3 to 1 ratio with Chinook and Halibut.

Sincerely,

David J. Brown
CFFC General Manager



March 29, 2013

Dear Chairman Wolford,

The Coastal Trollers Association supports Salmon Option 2. We support a summer opening of July 5 with an initial 40 Chinook and 40 Coho trip limit to be evaluated as the season progresses.

Sincerely,

Geoff Lebon
Vice President

From: **Benjamin Platt** <kaybeefish@me.com> (Note correction submitted below)

Date: Sun, Mar 24, 2013 at 5:53 PM

Subject: Commercial salmon options California

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

Dear Council members,

I am a commercial fisherman from Half Moon Bay, California and I would like you to consider my thoughts regarding the range of options for the 2013 California commercial salmon season.

The easiest way to make sense of the three options is to compare days closed in each area out of a possible 5 month season.

In Option 1 there is 21 days closed south of Pt. Arena, 35 days closed north of Pt. Arena to Horse Mountain and no fishing in the California portion of the KMZ (Humboldt jetty to Oregon border).

In Option 2 there is 26 days closed south of Pt. Arena and 46 days closed north of Pt. Arena to Horse Mountain in order to allow small quota fisheries throughout the summer in the KMZ, with a 20 fish a day trip limit.

In Option 3 there are 19 days closed below Pt. Arena and 42 days closed north of Pt. Arena with a small quota fishery allowed in the KMZ for September.

The great majority of the fleet will fish in the areas below Horse Mountain under any of these options. Even in Option 2 most boats will opt out of the KMZ fisheries due to the low quotas and small trip limits. Therefore, we must analyze the combined closed days in the areas divided by Pt. Arena to decide which option benefits the most fishermen:

Option one has 56 combined total closed days north and south of Pt. Arena; Option 2 has 72 days closed days; and Option 3 has 61 closed days.

Therefore, Option 1 provides the most days on the water available to the boats fishing above and below Pt. Arena and is clearly the option which will most benefit the majority of the fleet.

While I understand that it has been many years since Eureka and Crescent City have been allowed fishing seasons other than small September quota fisheries, I believe it is not worth sacrificing open fishing time for the vast majority in exchange for small trip limits and quotas which only benefit a handful of local boats.

A better alternative for the future would be for the Council to consider the idea of abundance based modeling in years like this of relative high abundance, which could allow meaningful fishing in the KMZ. It is the static and arbitrary index of 16% harvest rate of Klamath Fall run (which is in place to protect the smaller California Coastal Chinook runs) but is harshly restricting ocean fishing opportunity in this year of predicted high abundance. The solution lies in a variable harvest rate tied to relative abundance of the dominant Central Valley Fall and Klamath Fall runs. In the meantime our seasons should favor the most allowable time on the water for the most boats. This year the clear choice is Option 1.

Sincerely,
Ben Platt
F/V Seastar

From: <kaybeefish@yahoo.com>
Date: Mon, Mar 25, 2013 at 11:18 PM
Subject: Salmon season comments
To: "pmmc.comments@noaa.gov" <pmmc.comments@noaa.gov>

Dear sirs,

I recently submitted comment on the proposed California commercial salmon season options, but I made a mistake and I was hoping it was not too late to fix it.

In the third paragraph, I mistakenly said there was no fishing in the KMZ in September in Option 1. There is actually a 10,000 fish quota fishery.

Paragraph three should read:

"In Option 1, there are 21 days closed below Pt. Arena, 35 days closed above Pt. Arena to Horse Mountain and a 10,000 fish quota in The KMZ for September only."

If it is at all possible I would greatly appreciate it if this edit could be made in my comments before they are included in the briefing book. Can you please let me know if you can do this?

From: **Craig Goucher** <secondwind@humboldt1.com>
Date: Thu, Mar 28, 2013 at 2:49 PM
Subject:
To: pfmc.comments@noaa.gov

March 28, 2013

Council Members,

The Trinidad Bay Fishermen's Marketing Association supports option 2 for the California commercial salmon season. The past seasons have not given much consideration in the KMZ for commercial fishing opportunity. We think something else that should also be considered is the fact that some of the sport salmon seasons of the past years in the KMZ have been maximum opportunity while viable commercial seasons have been non-existent.

While option 2 is an improvement, it is not great commercial fishing opportunity. We would like the council to look at taking some time away from the sport season and giving it to the commercial fleet.

Commercial fishing is how we make a living, please explore all the options you have to make viable seasons for us now and in the future. The seasons we have been given in the past in the KMZ are quite unfair considering the opportunity other user groups have gotten.

Thank You for considering our thoughts,

Craig Goucher
President
T.B.F.M.A.

29 March 2013

Saturday, 6th April 2013
Comments for Agenda item E

Hello Dr. McIssac and Council Members:

My name is Craig Barbre and along with my wife Marlyse we commercially fish the vessel Preamble for salmon and albacore along the west coast. Some of you may remember me, for in the past I spent countless hours at council on rockfish and salmon issues.

I am writing to you at this time to ask for your consideration in modifying an alternative on the 2013 CA salmon season. My home port is Morro Bay and we Morro Bay trollers living on the southern edges of the king salmon range, like our trollers in the south from Ventura, Santa Barbara and Port San Luis Obispo, as well as our trollers in the Monterey Bay zone, rely heavily on the first two months of the season. This is the period when the fish are passing through our areas. By July the fish have usually moved north of Monterey, the fleet is getting compressed into a lesser area, the sea lions return to wreak their predation and gear destruction on us and Alaska comes on line with their king salmon, causing a depression of our prices.

While I realize that a favorite saying is that trollers need to travel to where they can fish, I also realize that this answer does not help keep our infrastructure intact. Ice facilities, fuel docks, gear stores, fish plants etc. can't just spin their propellers and move up the coast and we can ill afford to lose anymore infrastructure in this industry.

Again I understand that our area is dealing with winter run constraints not of our own making however in my communications with a member of your salmon advisory team I was made to understand that giving up two days in July, Pt. Arena, south could potentially give us the full month of June from Pigeon Pt, south. I was made to believe this adjustment would work in Option II and so myself as well as salmon troll representative's from Pillar Point, Santa Cruz, Moss Landing, Monterey, Morro Bay, Port San Luis, Santa Barbara and Ventura ask you to have your salmon team run a model for full May and June fishing south of Pigeon Point or south of Point Sur and if there would be minimal impacts on the rest of the coast then please insert these adjustments into the option package currently on the table.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully,

Craig Barbre / FV Preamble