



March 17, 2014

TO: Pacific Fishery Management Council
RE: Salmon Season- For April 2014 Briefing Book
FROM: Half Moon Bay Seafood Marketing Association

The Half Moon Bay Seafood Marketing Association held a general membership meeting on March 14 and voted unanimously to support Option 2 of the 2014 California commercial troll season alternatives. There were 22 members in attendance.

In Option 2 the season would be open from Pt. Arena to the Mexican border from May 1 to June 30 with no closure. This would be the first opportunity for continuous fishing in June since 2004. June is historically the best fishing in our area between Monterey and Bodega Bay. Option 2 is the only option this year that preserves full June fishing. The loss of 2-3 days in the Ft. Bragg area in June and the loss of late August and September fishing south of Pigeon Point are acceptable trade-offs. Ft. Bragg would maintain similar opportunities in all options. The loss below Pigeon Point in Option 2 is acceptable because there are usually very few salmon to catch in that area that late in the season.

Option 2 provides optimum fishing opportunities in the best areas during the most productive times of year for the majority of our fleet, so it is clearly the preferred option. The other two options add closures in June in the largest zone, from Pt. Arena to Mexico. It is also desirable to have full fishing in June since our market opportunities are ideal before the Alaska salmon begin to impact our retail outlets in early July.

Last season saw resurgence in catch and excellent prices for our California King Salmon, and we have witnessed an infusion of new and younger participants in our fishery in the last few years due to consistently good Dungeness crab seasons and increasingly good salmon seasons. Lets continue to build on the viability of our fishery and the prosperity of our family owned, independently operated fishing businesses!

Sincerely,

Ben Platt

Half Moon Bay Seafood Marketing Association

From: **Nick Kidd** <nicknak96@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, Mar 17, 2014 at 4:46 PM

Subject: 2014 commercial salmon season

To: pfmc.comments@noaa.gov

I am a commercial salmon fisherman from Fort Bragg Ca. I am writing to express my opinion on the options for the upcoming season. I highly support the option that gives the northern fishermen the most time in July. My best landings in 2013 were in mid July. As I also fish the opener below Point Arena, I also support the option that allows the most time for fishing in June below Arena. Thank you for considering my opinion.

Nick Kidd
F/V K III

March 17, 2014 via email:

Rich Hill ecodock@sbcglobal.net

Dear Mr. Burner, I'm a Californian native who is fed up with the last minute salmon sport fishing dates continuously coming from an over-sized California bureaucracy. I have decided to take my sport fishing \$ else where. Will someone please hit the reset button for California before its to late?

Richard Hill