

Ms. Dorothy Lowman, Chair & Councilmembers
Pacific Fishery Management Council
1100 NE Ambassador Place, #101
Portland, OR 97220

As recreational anglers, we relish the opportunity to head out on the water to catch Pacific bluefin tuna and we are very concerned with the current state of the bluefin population. That's why we are asking the Pacific Fishery Management Council to take action to significantly reduce the catch of Pacific bluefin, but to do it in a way that will allow us to continue to responsibly fish this amazing species. With immediate action, both the bluefin population and the recreational fishery can continue long into the future.

According to the latest science, major cuts to bluefin catch need to occur across the Pacific Ocean. There are a number of countries and organizations that need to act this year and the Council can do its part by immediately reducing the possession limit on the West Coast to one fish per angler per day, which would significantly reduce the total catch of the U.S. recreational fishery, but still allow anglers and charter boats to fish for bluefin while the stock rebuilds. Based on past catch data, any possession limit above one fish would not lead to the reductions that are required to ensure a sustainable future for Pacific bluefin and would threaten the future of the recreational fishery.

In the long term, we urge the Council to work with the relevant State agencies to improve reporting and monitoring requirements so that the recreational fishery can be managed with science-based catch limits. Such limits, along with in-season management, will allow anglers to target bluefin throughout the season, while still ensuring that catches don't exceed the recommended levels.

As anglers, we are as concerned about tomorrow's catch as we are today's. Please, take action today so future generations can enjoy the same thrill of catching majestic bluefin tuna that we currently enjoy. Timely management decisions today will have a positive impact on bluefin resources tomorrow.

Sincerely,

Mark Smolak, Marina Del Rey Anglers
Jeff Compton, Marina Del Rey Anglers
David Morris, Marina Del Rey Anglers
John Morris, Marina Del Rey Anglers
Sean Barnett, Marina Del Rey Anglers
Carolene Bookman, Marina Del Rey Anglers
Jose Govea, Marina Del Rey Anglers
Neil Hamade, Marina Del Rey Anglers
Christian Dodge, Tuna Club of Avalon
Warren Gunter, Tuna Club of Avalon
Peter Binaski, Tuna Club of Avalon
Bill Warmington, Tuna Club of Avalon
Chase Offield, Tuna Club of Avalon

Michael Thomas, Tuna Club of Avalon
Frank Polak, LA Rod & Reel
Larry Brown, LA Rod & Reel
Mark Manculich, LA Rod & Reel
Michael Grossman, LA Rod & Reel
Michael Goodman, LA Rod & Reel
James Carlisle, LA Rod & Reel
Stephen Simon, LA Rod & Reel
Kristofer Ekdahl, LA Rod & Reel
David Levinson, LA Rod & Reel
Phil Bell, LA Rod & Reel
Will Ebersman, LA Rod & Reel
George Meigs, LA Rod & Reel