

Dear panel members,

Please consider this letter as a formal request for the Experimental Fishery Permit for Electronic Monitoring System for our vessel the San Giovanni(fed#244706) under the Catch Share management program.

During last several years we have adjusted our fishing gear and methodology to maximize our catches for our markets while minimizing our discards and utilizing our own portfolio of allocations.

It is very critical for us to remain in our part of the coast to truly maximize the knowledge of our fishing grounds and to be able to stay in contact with our past fish buyers to also maximize the retention of our catches.

Our vessel is a 60 ft X 18ft. Our deck space is over 20ft long with a plenty of space for extra equipment.

About 80-90% of our fishing time is spent in the DTS complex in the depths ranging mostly between 300-400 fathoms. During last couple of years our discards during these tows were very minimal and consisted mostly of Tanner crab, deep water Sea stars and deep water Sharks. Rest of our fishing effort is being done predominately in flat sandy areas of our coast targeting mostly Sand dabs and Petrale sole. These tows are usually made during last(return) parts of our trips. When we are successful in catching decent amount of sand dabs we are using short sorting tables to sort out our catch and slide the discarded fish directly from the slides to the observers baskets. In the past we have even sorted most of the discards by species. We can do the same in the case of the EM setup. Most of other fish(larger rock fishes, crab, Skates..) than flatfishes are pulled aside and sorted before they are being shoveled onto the sorting slide. During this process the different flatfishes can be put in separate discard baskets and either weighed or estimated by weight prior to discarding. If it would be necessary during the EFP or the initial period of the EM we are willing to maximize our retention by bringing all groundfish to the docks to make this initial process more reliable. I would like to stress out that even though we are trying to avoid catches of unmarketable fishes it sometimes does not mean that we are always successful at it. We can catch larger quantities of smaller fishes, and we are forced to discard most of them. But we would be willing to undergo the extra work to accommodate these initial challenges.

Regarding of the catches of constraining species, we can bring all rock fishes to the docks to be documented there.

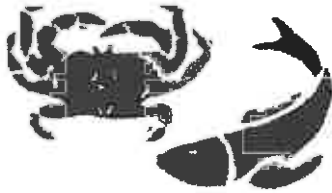
In this letter I am including our last and this years catch and discard data. As you can see in these prints we have been considerably successful in fulfilling the goals of the CS program. But also, as I have mentioned above, during our trip on March 2nd 2013 our discards were much higher than usual. Trips like that do not happen often as you can see, but they will occur from time to time and will affect the vessel and its operations success.

Please consider this letter as a offer of our expertise in helping to establish better and more flexible monitoring system for the West Coast grounfish fishery. If you have any questions rearding of this letter, our vessel or any part of our operation, please feel free to contact me any time.

Thank you,

Jiri Nozicka

(831)393-4945



NORTH COAST FISHERIES, INC.

P.O. Box 8219 • Santa Rosa, CA 95407
Telephone: 707-579-0679 • Fax: 707-579-0361

Dear supervisors and board members:

I have very large concerns over the current federal monitoring system of ground fish vessels. I am in total support of monitoring all catches and using what is caught, however I have seen countless trips cancelled due to the lack of ability to get an approved said monitor on the vessel for the fishing trip.

I have seen smaller vessels that are not adequately set up to accommodate this extra body safely completely give up and retire out of the business or fold up their operation. ***This was not the objective of federal monitoring and needs to be addressed immediately.***

We cannot afford to have more consolidation and more true independents leave the business. The larger vessels further north in Oregon and Washington many of which have deep company strings tied to them have had less struggles getting monitors aboard than have the vessels in California. This is due to more vessels and more monitors in the area. It is putting Oregon and Washington at a great and unjust advantage over California vessels and California Based processors of which there are only a small handful to begin with.

It seems to me that in this modern world it should be a quite easily improved system by using electronic monitoring whereby when the motor is fired up monitoring is also fired up. I know this can be done and wonder why this was not implemented as the top choice in the first place. Fishing is dangerous and less bodies on the vessel is a preferred way to go.

Financially I can only say that multiple trips have been cancelled due to lack of availability of these monitors, millions of pounds of fish have **Not** been caught, processed, and sold to markets and this is a **loss of millions of dollars to the economy.** Can we really sit idle and wait for a better solution while the vessels that now exist starve to death financially? I have a crew of 45 workers that would like this resolved, we have several vessels that we buy the product from that would like this resolved and we need your help and some appropriate pressure applied to right this wrong. ***California fisheries are every bit as important as Washington, Oregon, and even Alaska it is about time we started getting treated as such.***

Sincerely,

Michael T Lucas | President



September 5, 2013

Mayor:
CHUCK DELLA SALA

COMMISSIONERS:
LIBBY DOWNEY
ALAN HAFFA
NANCY SELFRIDGE
FRANK SOLLECITO

City Manager:
FRED MEURER

Dr. John Stein
Science and Research Director
Northwest Fisheries Science Center
2725 Montlake Boulevard East
Seattle, WA 98112-2097

RE: Support for Fee Waiver: FOIA Request, Tracking # DOC-NOAA-2013-0001206

Dear Dr. Stein,

Monterey is one of the West Coast's most historic fishing ports, yet the City has been severely challenged to maintain our fishing infrastructure, and to preserve the economic and cultural benefits that our fisheries contribute to the City. Until recently, there has been only one bottom trawl vessel landing groundfish in Monterey—the "San Giovanni". This vessel has participated in NOAA's NMFS West Coast Trawl Catch Share Observer program. However, the owner and operator of this vessel have been informed by the observer program contractor, Alaska Observers, Inc, that they will no longer provide observers for this vessel due to allegations that the vessel is unsafe, a charge which is strongly disputed by the vessel owner. Further, according to the San Giovanni operator, the observer contractor intimated that the contractor was not finding it profitable to provide services to Central California, as there are so few trawl vessels.

This situation effectively puts the San Giovanni out of business, but also has large consequences for our community. Monterey is just completing a Community Fisheries Sustainability Plan, in which the need to preserve the groundfish fishery is a key recommendation. The City is also supporting the development of a Community Quota Fund, now in its early stage, as a way of securing groundfish quota in our region. The loss of observer coverage to the remaining trawl vessel, or Central California, would be an unexpected and significant setback for the groundfish fishery, but also could undermine the success of the Catch Share system generally. As it stands, the community has had no trawl landings since early May, 2013.

The Freedom of Information Act request seeks information that would shine the public light on the reasons the observer contractor is refusing to serve the San Giovanni. It is only with transparent information as to the rationale for this decision that the vessel owner, the City, and NOAA, can determine a course of action. It is for these reasons that the City of Monterey supports the request that the administrative/copying fees for this FOIA be waived.

Regards,

Chuck Della Sala

2012

Season

RECEIVED

OCT 31 2013

PFMC

Generated from NOAA West Coast Groundfish IFQ Application on 10/08/2013 9:16 AM

Landing D:	Fish Ticket	Observer	Discard	Total Catch	Debite	Landing Date	Port	Receiver Name
	#####	K133749		0		1771	Wed Dec 12 00	MONTEREY Royal Seafoods
	#####	X253653		0		25848	Wed Dec 12 00	MONTEREY North Coast Fish
12/5/2012	X253652			0		18405	Wed Dec 5 00:	MONTEREY North Coast Fish
12/5/2012	K133748			840		3680	Wed Dec 5 00:	MONTEREY Royal Seafoods
	#####	X253651		0		19717	Wed Nov 14 00	MONTEREY North Coast Fish
	#####	K133747		157		1740	Wed Nov 14 00	MONTEREY Royal Seafoods
11/6/2012	X252600			0		19239	Tue Nov 6 00:0	MONTEREY North Coast Fish
11/6/2012	K133746			323		1964	Tue Nov 6 00:0	MONTEREY Royal Seafoods
	#####	K133745		872		5495	Tue Oct 30 00:	MONTEREY Royal Seafoods
	#####	X252599		0		15198	Tue Oct 30 00:	MONTEREY North Coast Fish
	#####	K133744		1244		3146	Wed Oct 24 00:	MONTEREY Royal Seafoods
	#####	X252598		0		17783	Wed Oct 24 00:	MONTEREY North Coast Fish
	#####	X252597		0		22497	Sun Oct 14 00:	MONTEREY Royal Seafoods
	#####	K133743		3675		5453	Sun Oct 14 00:	MONTEREY Royal Seafoods
9/30/2012	K133742			2369		2874	Sun Sep 30 00:	MONTEREY Royal Seafoods
9/30/2012	X252596			0		18622	Sun Sep 30 00:	MONTEREY North Coast Fish
9/19/2012	K133741			728		3431	Wed Sep 19 00	MONTEREY Royal Seafoods
9/19/2012	X252595			0		15541	Wed Sep 19 00	MONTEREY North Coast Fish
9/13/2012	K133740			2285		12023	Thu Sep 13 00:	MONTEREY Royal Seafoods
8/24/2012	K133739			18		12269	Fri Aug 24 00:0	MONTEREY North Coast Fish
8/24/2012	X252594			0		12152	Fri Aug 24 00:0	MONTEREY North Coast Fish
8/14/2012	K133738			1009		16246	Tue Aug 14 00:	MONTEREY Royal Seafoods
8/14/2012	X252592			0		17239	Tue Aug 14 00:	MONTEREY North Coast Fish
7/27/2012	K133737			521		25257	Fri Jul 27 00:00	MONTEREY Royal Seafoods
7/15/2012	K133736			305		28803	Sun Jul 15 00:0	MONTEREY Royal Seafoods
7/1/2012	K133735			3		18216	Sun Jul 1 00:00	MONTEREY Royal Seafoods
6/26/2012	K133734			2553		13948	Tue Jun 26 00:	MONTEREY Royal Seafoods
6/26/2012	X252591			0		19024	Tue Jun 26 00:	MONTEREY North Coast Fish
6/12/2012	K133733			12		320	Tue Jun 12 00:	MONTEREY Royal Seafoods
6/12/2012	X252590			0		14456	Tue Jun 12 00:	MONTEREY North Coast Fish
5/15/2012	K133732			159		30406	Tue May 15 00:	MONTEREY Royal Seafoods
4/26/2012	K133731			10		30522	Thu Apr 26 00:	MONTEREY Royal Seafoods
4/19/2012	K133730			98		25333	Thu Apr 19 00:	MONTEREY Royal Seafoods
4/12/2012	K133728			2		28542	Thu Apr 12 00:	MONTEREY Royal Seafoods

17/89

508651

3 9/10 Discard over All

2013

Generated from NOAA West Coast Groundfish IFQ Application on 10/08/2013 9:00 A

Landing Date	Orig Fish Ticket	First Recei	Observer Discard	Total Catcl	Port
5/9/2013	### K131683	3271	285	3556	MONTEREY
5/9/2013	### X253662	20189	0	20189	MONTEREY
4/24/2013	### K131682	4200	1288	5488	MONTEREY
4/24/2013	### X253661	18988	0	18988	MONTEREY
4/6/2013	### K131681	414	0	414	MONTEREY
4/6/2013	### X253660	8632	0	8632	MONTEREY
3/27/2013	### X253659	22092	0	22092	MONTEREY
3/27/2013	### K131680	1406	203	1609	MONTEREY
3/20/2013	### K131679	667	0	667	MONTEREY
3/20/2013	### X253658	18504	0	18504	MONTEREY
3/2/2013	### K131678	5109	7237	12346	MONTEREY
3/2/2013	### X253657	11830	0	11830	MONTEREY
2/13/2013	### X253656	9345	0	9345	MONTEREY
2/13/2013	### K131677	4242	112	4362	MONTEREY
2/1/2013	### K131676	295	5	300	MONTEREY
2/1/2013	### X253655	10794	0	10794	MONTEREY
1/21/2013	### X253654	12395	0	12395	MONTEREY
1/21/2013	### K133750	554	12	566	MONTEREY

7237
 9142
 1905

Less

151977 lbs

6% Discard
1% Discard

My name is Jiri Nozicka. I am the current operator of the F/V San Giovanni. The F/V San Giovanni(Fed# 244706) has been operating out of port of Monterey under the West Coast Trawl Catch Share Program since the programs launch in 2011. Due to the shortage of observers we are now being forced out of the Catch Share program entirely until at least next spring at best.

The F/V San Giovanni have been the only bottom trawl vessel operating out of Monterey's Harbor for last 8 years and the only vessel providing local catches of groundfish for local markets and the only vessel working with the Royal Seafoods co. which has been so greatly affected by this problem, that it's owners are considering shutting their operation completely. The Royal Seafood is the only licensed Catch Shares first receiver in Monterey.

The F/V San Giovanni have also worked for the North Coast Fisheries, where most of our catches were processed in last 5 years. Their operation is also being affected by our vessel not being able to bring our catches to them as well. As I learned from their representative, one of their other boats from Fort Brag had a very difficult time finding observers for many fishing trips trough last and this year. This problem is seems to getting bigger and I am afraid it can get worse.

We fully understand and accept the need of the 100% data monitoring requirement for the success of the Catch Share program, but under current circumstances and conditions the status quo actually threatens the very existence and the future of our industry and its infrastructure in our and other similar ports and possibly the rest of California.

Having said all this, I understand the challenge that more flexible and small port and small operator friendlier monitoring system might be to developed and establish, but this might be the exact time to try to bring it in to existence.

Our vessel have been recently scheduled to install a electronic monitoring equipment aboard, I understand that the Archipelago co. is really confident in accurate monitoring aboard of bottom trawl vessels. I also understand that council is considering an Experimental Fishing Permit for electronic monitoring aboard of bottom trawl vessels within the Catch Share program.

I personally would like to ask you to consider implementing the Electronic monitoring and I would like to request that our boat will be selected to demonstrate how the electronic monitoring without the observer aboard can be successful in accurate monitoring of our fishing operation

I am very confident in our ability to provide good and reliable process aboard of our vessel, to make the monitoring process easy, accurate and reliable. We can assure you that we will provide the best service for this program, to ensure future success for our industry. I would also like to bring to your attention the possible problems regarding of the catch monitor positions, because even if we will have success in launching of the electronic monitoring, we will most likely face challenge in searching for the catch monitors for the offloading, unless there will also be cameras installed on the docks as well.

At last, I would like to thank you for your time and effort you have already put in resolving this issue, but I would like to stress one more time how urgent this is for the very existence and the survival of our operations and jobs in our area. It would be very unfortunate, if more full time, year around fishing operations like ours as well as small

ports like Monterey, would have to face the very hard choices of leaving the industry for a problems like this. We love to fish in our area and the way we do. We have been adjusting to the new management and we were becoming part of what you might call "boutique fisheries" on our coast. Most of us, who are left, do smaller volume fishing and are focusing on developing more direct and higher quality and value marketing. Our industry is changing and we need your help in matching the management and the monitoring system to the real situations and problems in our world that might differ from the areas in Oregon and Washington. I firmly believe, that this situation can bring the needed changes and it will actually help the industry in the long term. I would like to offer you my help and expertise in solving this issue for the better end. Please consider our plea, and our commitment.

Thank you

Sincerely

Jiri Nozicka

F/V San Giovanni

Monterey, CA

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