

Ms. Dorothy Lowman, Chair

Pacific Fishery Management Council

1100 NE Ambassador Place, #101

Portland, OR 97220

Agenda Item I.3.c: Bluefin Tuna Management Measures for 2015-2016 Fisheries,
Supplemental Public Comment 2

Dear Chair Lowman and Council members:

As a recreational angler, I write in support the Council's recent decision to adopt a preferred alternative for a 2-fish a day bag limit for the U.S. recreational Pacific bluefin tuna fishery. Recent science shows that the catch of bluefin must be significantly reduced across the Pacific in order for the species to recover. Based on California logbook data, a daily limit of 2 fish per angler would reduce catch by 30% from current levels and still allow fishermen the opportunity to catch this important recreational species.

Further, I encourage the Council to continue its efforts to move towards science-based catch limits and in-season measures that could be used to manage the recreational fishery. In-season management would allow the fishery to continue throughout the year, but still avoid catches that exceed the overall limit. With final action in November, the Council can affirm its commitment to a sustainable future for Pacific bluefin tuna and the recreational anglers who depend on a healthy tuna population.

Reductions on both commercial and recreational fronts will empower international fisheries managers to put pressure on commercial fleets to also reduce their catch limits and allow this population to rebound. As a responsible angler, I hope that my commitment will set an example as the type of leadership urgently needed at the commercial level.

Thank you,

Captain David Carpenter
Costa Mesa, CA

Steven Bruechle & Baja Fish Gear
Lomita, CA

Tom Elsten
Costa Mesa, CA

Frank Polak & LA Rod & Reel Club
Los Angeles, CA

Gregg Solomon & Seashore Enterprises,
Inc.
Laguna Hills, CA

Paul Hoofe
Newport Beach, CA

William Dutra
Danville, CA

Sally Kurz
Laguna Niguel, CA

Zack Porter
Redondo Beach, CA

Bennett Batten
Venice, CA

William O'Kelly
San Fernando Valley, CA

Kyle Knoll
Brentwood, CA

Brad Bilger
Calabasas, CA

Jim Hendicks
El Segundo, CA

Frank Sullivan
Oxnard, CA

Justin Hummer
Los Angeles, CA

Chuck Hammerstad
San Jose, CA

Mirando Osti
Los Angeles, CA

Mark Armen
Long Beach, CA

Marcus Osti
Santa Monica, CA

Peter Grimbilas & The Greater Point
Pleasant Charter Boat Association
Towaco, NJ

Robert Kurz
Newport Beach, CA

Robert Chavers & The Laguna Niguel
Billfish Club
Laguna Niguel, CA

Doug Frank
Thousand Oaks, CA

Travis White
La Mirada, CA

Jose Sanchez & Cedros Outdoor
Adventures
San Ysidro, CA

Michael Schweit & The Southwest Council,
International Federation of Fly Fishers
Northridge, CA



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
COUNCILMEMBER SCOTT SHERMAN
SEVENTH DISTRICT

November 17, 2014

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

RE: Severe Restrictions on Bluefin Tuna Fishing

Chairwoman Lowman:

San Diego is home to the largest sportfishing fleet of its kind in the world. This fleet employs thousands of San Diegans and attracts tourists from around the world to enjoy fishing and learn about our beautiful environment.

The sportfishing industry generates millions of dollars in tax revenue from tourists who spend their dollars on San Diego hotels, restaurants, marinas, boat yards and surrounding regional attractions. Placing severe restrictions on Bluefin Tuna fishing would have a drastic negative effect on the San Diego economy and put hundreds of jobs in the regional maritime industry in peril.

I urge the Pacific Fishery Management Council to carefully consider the implications that severe restrictions would have on our region. I recognize that some reduction is warranted but severe restrictions should only happen after additional scientific studies have been concluded. I urge the Pacific Fishery Management Council to work with the stakeholders in the San Diego region to find a better solution. As a lifelong San Diegan and fisherman, I urge you to strongly consider the negative impacts an extreme reduction would have on San Diego's economy.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Scott Sherman
San Diego City Council, District 7



Agenda Item I.3.c
Supplement Public Comment
November 2014

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Duncan Hunter
U.S. House of Representatives
50th District, California

November 13, 2014

Dorothy Lowman
Chair, Pacific Fisheries Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place #101
Portland, OR 97220

Re: Pacific Bluefin Management Measures

Dear Chair Lowman:

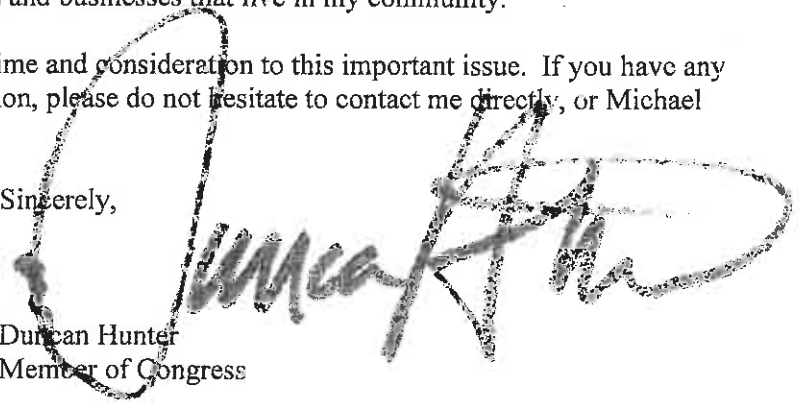
I am writing to make you aware of my concern for the protection of Pacific Bluefin Tuna, as well as our marine recreation industry. In Southern California, both play an important role in the sustainability of our region. As the Council moves forward with its deliberations on management of the resource, I feel it is important that appropriate and significant consideration be provided to the actual impact recreational fishing has on the bluefin tuna stock.

Compared to the commercial harvest, the recreational take is so small it has no effect at the proposed levels on the future of the species. As you know, the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission has negotiated commercial quotas measuring in the thousands of tons of bluefin tuna to primarily the commercial industries in Mexico and Japan. These are reduced quotas from past harvests and an appropriate course of action would be for the Council to monitor the progress resulting through these measures and make further adjustments after the next stock assessment.

Specifically at issue is determining what is the gained resource protective value of limiting bag limits to three or two fish? With regard to the sustainability of the species, there is no valued difference by either of these bag limits. There is, however, significant economic impact by reducing limits from three to two fish per angler. The recreational angling community shares concerns with protecting the species and has reached out in good faith by proposing to reduce their catches from 10 to three fish per day. Personally, I find this a reasonable and significant step that should be supported. It is imperative we work together to protect the businesses and jobs within our communities and any action should be taken with the approach to protect both the environment and our economic interests. My request to the Council is that it appropriately protect the resource while, at the same time, provide the same level of consideration to the sportfishing families and businesses that live in my community.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration to this important issue. If you have any questions, or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me directly, or Michael Harrison in my office at (619) 448-5201.

Sincerely,


Duncan Hunter
Member of Congress



Sportfishing Association of California
Pacific Bluefin Tuna



Survey

In response to Pacific Fisheries Management Council action regarding Pacific bluefin tuna possession limits in the United States, SAC is distributing this survey.



Name:

1) Will you change how much you fish for Pacific bluefin tuna if the daily bag limit is dropped to **3** fish per day per angler?

- No
- I will fish less
- I will fish more

2) Will you change how much you fish for Pacific bluefin tuna if the daily bag limit is dropped to **2** fish per day per angler ?

- No
- I will fish less
- I will fish more

3) Will you change how much you fish for Pacific bluefin tuna if the daily bag limit is dropped to **1** fish per day per angler ?

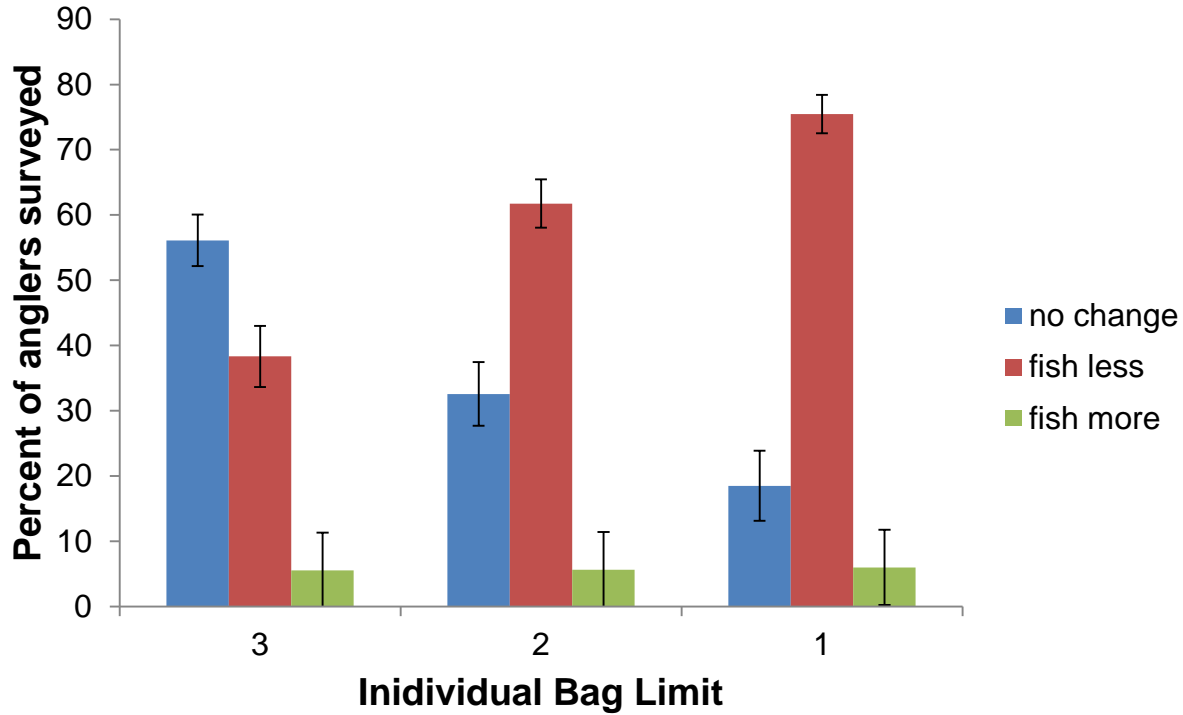
- No
- I will fish less
- I will fish more

4) What bag limit will cause you to stop fishing for tuna entirely?

- 1
- 2
- 3

Results

n = 1142



Bag limit	1	2	3
% fish less	76%	62%	38%
% no change	19%	33%	56%
% fish more	5%	5%	6%