

Ocean Pacific Seafood

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PFMC



July 16, 2010

Dave Ortmann, Chair,
Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Pl, Suite 200
Portland, OR 97220-1384

Dear Mr. Ortmann,

I am writing to ask the Council to begin the process for modifying an existing HMS high-seas pelagic longline fishery regulation. Of the provisions found under 50 CFR §660.712 (a), all provisions pertaining to the high-seas fishery are obsolete, especially those provisions limiting or prohibiting the directed take of swordfish. This regulation was originally implemented to insure that the Pacific Council's high-seas longline regulations were consistent with the West Pacific Council's high-seas longline regulations.

However, the conditions that once warranted such regulations no longer exist, and the West Pacific Council modified their longline fishing regulations to reflect current conditions and best longline fishing practices. The original intent of section 660.712 was to provide a west coast counterpart to the West Pacific Council's longline regulations in order to effectuate consistent high-seas management of the Pacific U.S. longline fishery between the two Councils. The present regulatory inconsistency noted above thwarts this intent. Section 660.712 needs to be modified so that the West Pacific Council regulations are once again consistent with those of the Pacific Council.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pete Dupuy'. The signature is stylized and cursive.

Pete Dupuy

cc. Rodney McInnis, Regional Administrator, NMFS, SW Region