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JUN 15 1999

PFMC

To: Rodney R. Mcinnis NMFS  
From: John Borman  
Date: 6/5/99  
Subject: Sardines

Dear Mr. Mcinnis

We are opposed to the limiting of boats to fish for sardines and mackerel. Our company has been a major processor here in Ventura County for the past 14 years. We have employed many boats and accounted for a sizable portion of the quota when sardines were again being harvested after the long hiatus throughout the 60s and 70s. We were involved in the fishery through the 80s and into the mid 90s when we became uncompetitive with other processors because we would not underlog our catch. Our boats fished squid and were not given a market for sardines. Now the plan(FMP) (64 FR 28143, May 25, 1999) calls for the exclusion of our boats as they do not qualify for a permit as the window period allowed to qualify was not used by our boats. This limited entry plan is a self serving plan engineered by members of the advisory committee that favors there boats and excludes others. Note the members of the advisory committee are beneficiaries and therefor pose clear conflicts of interest. This plan should be stopped.

How can you justify limiting the number of boats allowed to harvest a resource that is doubling in quota and is now such volumes that the number of boats cant catch it? This plan favors the companies that under logged there catches and penalizes those companies that played by the rules. Our fleet of six boats should be able to participate in this fishery.

John Borman  
President  
Sun Coast Calamari