

Exhibit G.10.c
Public Comment
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PFMC

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To The P.F.M.C.,

At the last council meeting I was asked how I have been affected by the reductions in the near shore quotas this year. I will answer that question in depth with this letter.

HISTORY

As you know I have fished for rock cod commercially since 82, this fishing has sustained me over the years as I married and raised my family. Last year, the council cut the near shore catches 50%. This was a hard blow to my business, but I was able make up some of the lost fish by fishing in deeper water for yellowtail and widow rockfish.

This year my access to yellowtail was cut to 100lbs a month. This was to keep me from catching canary as a byproduct of my fishing effort. The council was concerned since many boats fish with trolled snake gear. This gear is fished by being trolling 100's of hooks in a horizontal manner through the water. Thus, if this gear is fished too deep it might catch too many canaries before the operator knew he was in a school of them.

I tried to educate the council as to the differences of the vertical line fishery, that fishes fewer hooks in a vertical matter. This way the hooks are drifted through the water in an upright matter and thus catch fewer canaries in the first place. Also that the catch rate of fish is slower which allows the operator to move if he does encounter a school of canary which seem to want to climb the hook rigs. All of my effort was to no avail.

PRESENT

As of this writing I am allowed 1500lbs of near shore minor rockfish, 100lbs of yellowtail, 100lbs shelf, 3000lbs of widow, and 50lbs of canary rock fish. With my vertical gear, I can fill the 1500lbs of M.N.S.R in two trips. I have only filled my shelf and canary limit once all year. I have found less then 600lbs of widow in the waters I can safely access with my boat, and could have caught many 100s of lbs of yellowtail.

CONSEQUENCES

This year I have been reduced to an income that is less then minimum wage. My wife had to leave the work force to have an operation this winter. She was unable to work until now. I had no warning of the council's impending action. I had already adjusted to a 50% cut last year. The council cut us 80% this year. How could I adjust to that? I have used almost all of the credit I have to pay my costs of the medical work my wife needed. That

had been planned a year in advance. That's how you deal with life. Just as the dental and eye work my kids need gets done each summer. Not this year. I have to pay back the credit I used this spring when my cash flow was negative as I waited for each period to pass, so I could fish again. I will need that credit again next January to buy licenses which take over 2000\$ each year. I was able to finally make enough money in the July/August period, to keep some in my account, and pay off part of a high interest credit card debt. All of the normal boat maintenance has been put off, as has all house maintenance that is a never-ending cycle. There is no other species of fish I can land in this area with my 25ft boat. I acquired a family, a house, and a boat without ever knowing that the council would take the fish I have used to live on away. I could not just walk away from these parts of my life. I never would have settled in Crescent City if I knew I could not fish for a living. Though several times this year the minimum jobs available would have made me as much as my fishing. I have not yet found any job here in my area that will offer me a new career. There is no assistance for fishermen that make money the month before, so I have to be poor for a full quarter before the local assistance will help me. It least I get some help with medical, though, my prescriptions are not covered. These are the personal effects on me of what the council did last November.

The business affects are a little different, but need to be addressed. The biggest business effect is that I have lost half of my clients to readily available shatter pack cod. They are now using this product instead of mine. The price was lower and the supply steady. Next, is the fact that if I could have had some kind of advanced warning, so I could have invested capital in a way that could have taken advantage of the changes in my business. Perhaps I could have bought more fish from other fishermen, or started a retail outlet to bring in still more value for my catch. Now my earnings this year will not support any kind of credit to allow me to make that kind of move. I am working with the S.B.A., but I must spent most of my time trying to keep the council on track with the summer fish quotas. The council's actions this year help foster the take it all as fast as you can mentality by not allowing fishermen to set up stable niches, where the most value for the product can be gained.

THE FUTURE

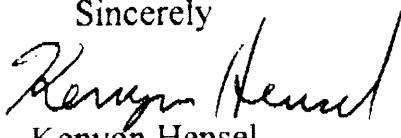
So what is the reason for all of this whining? I have a duty to tell you what you have done to the small boat fishermen in my port. I know they are going through the same kind of pain. Our port is small and we rub shoulders as we work. Sure, some of us are older, and can handle this kind of reduced income for a while. Some are even doing worse than I am. These are private

people and not willing to bleed out to strangers, as I just did. These stories are just in my port. I try not to speak of areas other than my own, but from my travels, the suffering seem to be wide spread.

What could have helped us all would have been to have some warning of what was coming. Time to adjust would have helped us considerably. I am sure the council knew what it wanted in the future for the open access fleet. I have heard us called a bunch of small boats that catch a little fish. Yet the small size of our landings supported many boats. My own landings are the highest among the open access and A permitted boats in Crescent City. I have landed over 40000lbs in 98, so here I cannot even be called a minor contributor. It is a shame that the council did not learn our value before creating such havoc among us. As for our right to fish, when the congress provided for open access, the fact that the sport catch was taken out of all of the commercial catch before the split to open access was made, shows that the open access was to be for the commercial fishermen who did not fit the closed access gear requirements, and not meant to supply the near shore sport catch.

I hope that my time has been helpful to the council. At the September meeting, I hope to present a number of ways that will help keep the small boats fishing in some manner. I like the new management plan, if that's what it is, and not just window dressing for business as usual. I know that area management is going to be the cure for some of the problems I have seen. I also know that area management will be hard to work out in the short run. I am hopeful that this council will apply the many long-range goals of this plan. I also hope the council will be more understanding of the short term consequences of it's actions in both the near shore, and it appears, in the rest of the fisheries who look to follow in our wake.

Sincerely


Kenyon Hensel