



*Conserving Ocean Fish and Their Environment  
For Over 25 Years*

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PFMC

October 16, 2000

Mr. James H. Lone, Chairman  
Pacific Fishery Management Council  
2130 S.W. Fifth Avenue, Suite 224  
Portland, OR 97201

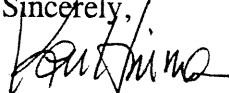
Dear Mr. Lone,

The National Coalition for Marine Conservation (NCMC) is the nation's oldest non-profit organization devoted exclusively to the conservation of marine fish and their environment. We have, since our founding more than 25 years ago, dedicated substantial time and resources to conserving highly migratory species (tunas, swordfish, billfish and sharks). We are deeply interested in, and closely following, the Pacific Council's development of a new Fishery Management Plan for Highly Migratory Species.

In this regard, we want to impress upon you the importance of including a fair balance of interested parties in the plan development process from the beginning, to ensure that all concerned with and affected by your council's decisions may participate on an equal footing. United Anglers of California, along with a number of national sportfishing conservation organizations, has noted the inadequate representation on the council's HMS advisory panel of representatives from the west coast's recreational fishing community. We share their concern that this imbalance jeopardize's the integrity of the plan development process.

We strongly endorse the UAC's request that the council take action as soon as possible to rectify this situation and ensure equal representation between recreational and commercial participants in the HMS fisheries, as well as provide for a fair representation of non-aligned conservation interests.

Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,  


Ken Hinman  
President