

UNITED ANGLERS
of Southern California

October 20, 2000

James H. Lone, Chairman
Pacific Fishery Management Council
2130 SW Fifth Avenue, Suite 224
Portland, Oregon 97201

Re: Make-up of the Highly Migratory Sub-panel, additional support

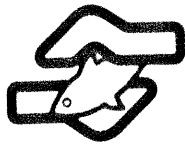
Dear Mr. Lone:

Earlier this month, United Anglers of Southern California submitted a letter outlining the need for additional recreational representation on the HMS Sub-panel. I have enclosed a copy of that original letter with the addition of Mr. Michael Leech, President of the International Game Fish Association, as yet another signer to that document. Also find enclosed a letter from Mr. Ken Hinman, the President of the National Coalition of Marine Conservation, further endorsing our proposal. Clearly our proposal has firm support from every major recreational fishing organization in the United States. We expect that the Council will act accordingly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Raftican".

Tom Raftican
President, United Anglers of Southern California



UNITED ANGLERS
of Southern California

5046 Edinger Avenue
Huntington Beach, CA 92649
714 840 0227 TEL
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10-20-2000

Mr. James H. Lone, Chairman
Pacific Fishery Management Council
2130 SW Fifth Avenue, Suite 224
Portland, Oregon 97201

Dear Mr. Lone:

United Anglers of Southern California (UASC) is the largest California Association dedicated to restoring California's fisheries and marine habitat. Friends from the undersigned national sportfishing conservation organizations join us in this letter. Collectively we represent hundreds of thousands of American recreational anglers and the industries that they support. We are all concerned about the lack of balanced interests among the members of the Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Advisory Subpanel.

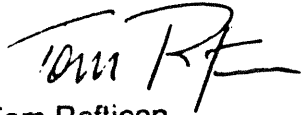
This Subpanel consists of 8 members representing commercial fishing and processing sectors and only 2 members representing the diverse West Coast recreational fishing community. We believe that this imbalance is unfair, inappropriate, and a great disservice to the angling community. The lack of representation diminishes the importance of recreational angling to our citizens and coastal economies. In California alone saltwater anglers provide \$1.8 billion in annual economic impact and create over 19,000 full time jobs. The Council's ability to make good, conservation oriented decisions on issues such as the possibility of a new longline fishery and the allocation of striped marlin has been compromised by the lack of adequate representation from the recreational sector.

The highly migratory species comprise an important resource for anglers along the West Coast, and particularly in California. We want to assure that these resources are managed for healthy stock abundance and recreational angling opportunities. We believe that it is incumbent on the Council to reconstitute the Subpanel with equal representation from recreational and commercial participants in this fishery.

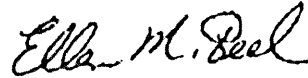
The HMS FMP that your Council is charged with developing is too important an effort to not do properly from this early fact finding stage through to the final decisions. The needed input from our side of this fishery has been missing to this point. We ask that you assure the integrity of the plan development process by balancing representation on the Subpanel and extending the time frame for final action on the FMP until March 2002. This extension will allow for additional recreational community input that has been lost during the last six months.

We would further ask that you adopt these changes during the coming October 30 through November 3 PFMC meeting.

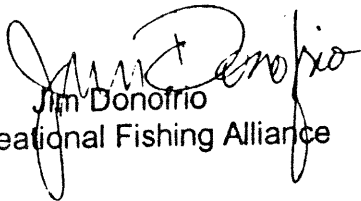
Sincerely,



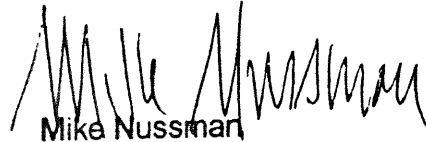
Tom Raftican
United Anglers of Southern California



Ellen Peel
The Billfish Foundation



Jim Donofrio
Recreational Fishing Alliance



Mike Nussman
American Sportfishing Association



Michael Leech
International Game Fish Association



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

October 16, 2000

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

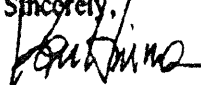
Dear Mr. Lone,

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