

Sea K Fish Co

DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL SALES

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FEB 28 2001

WHOLESALE SALMON,
BOTTOM FISH,
HERRING, CRAB &
SHELLFISH PRODUCTS

MARTIN KULJIS
GEORGE COSTELLO
STEVE KULJIS

FEBRUARY 22, 2001

TO: PACIFIC FISHERIES MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
GROUNDFISH ADVISORY PANEL AND
GROUNDFISH MANAGEMENT TEAM

MY NAME IS SAM HENLEY, I CURRENTLY WORK FOR SEA K FISH CO., IN BLAINE, WASHINGTON AS MANAGER. I HAVE BEEN HERE FOR 18 YEARS. PRIOR TO THIS POSITION I WAS PRODUCTION MANAGER FOR WASHINGTON CRAB PRODUCERS 20 YEARS AND I OPERATED MY OWN FISH BUSINESS FOR FIVE YEARS BEFORE THIS. I HAVE BEEN IN THE BOTTOM FISH BUSINESS FOR 45 YEARS.

THE MAIN REASON FOR THIS LETTER IS YOUR DECISION TO PUT ARROWTOOTH FLOUNDER ON A QUOTA LIST TO PROTECT A FEW RED ROCKFISH. THIS WILL BE VERY DETRIMENTAL TO OUR COMPANY. YOU THINK YOU ARE SAVING A FEW ROCKFISH BUT THIS WILL END UP COSTING OUR FISHERMEN AND OUR COMPANY SEVERAL MILLIONS OF POUNDS OF PRODUCT.

I FURTHER DISAGREE WITH YOUR PRESUMPTION THAT THESE BOATS ARE CATCHING A LOT OF CANARY ROCK IN THIS FISHERY. WHAT I HAVE SEEN IN THE PAST IS MOSTLY A BY-CATCH OF DOVER SOLE, BLACK COD AND A FEW IDIOT FISH.

AS I STATED BEFORE, I HAVE BEEN BUYING GROUNDFISH FROM BOATS FISHING OFF THE WASHINGTON COAST FOR OVER 40 YEARS. THERE NEVER HAS BEEN A LARGE CONCENTRATION OF THESE FISH IN THIS AREA. IN THE EARLY 60'S WE HAD OVER 500 SALMON TRAWLERS ON THE COAST BRING IN 30,000 TO 40,000# OF ROCKFISH PER DAY OF BY-CATCH. WE VERY RARELY SAW A RED ROCK IN WITH THESE FISH. WE HAD OVER 15 DRAG BOATS AND 10-15 SHRIMP BOATS DRAGGING AT THAT TIME (1960'S AND 1970'S) AND VERY SELDOM SAW A RED ROCK. WE HAD THE FIRST MID-WATER BOAT ON THE WASHINGTON COAST, THE PAT SAN MARIE, CATCHING UP TO 100,000# PER DAY, BUT NEVER ANY RED ROCK.

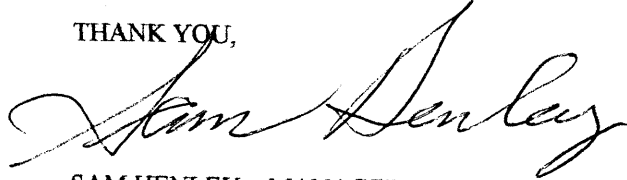
I BELIEVE THAT WITH ALL THIS EFFORT GOING ON, IF THERE WAS A LARGE BODY OF RED ROCK ON THE WASHINGTON COAST OR EVEN A SMALL BODY, SOMEONE WOULD HAVE BEEN CATCHING THEM! I BELIEVE YOU ARE TRYING TO PROTECT AND BUILD UP A GROUP OF FISH THAT WAS NEVER A NATIVE IN ANY QUANTITY TO THE WASHINGTON COAST.

ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF RED ROCK NOT EXISTING ON THE WASHINGTON COAST, IN THE 50'S AND EARLY 60'S, WHEN THE ONLY ROCK THAT WAS PURCHASED BY THE FISH COMPANIES, MAINLY DAHL FISH AND BORNSTEIN'S IN BELLINGHAM, WAS CANARY ROCK. WHY DID ALL THESE BOATS TRAVEL 24 TO 36 HOURS INTO CANADIAN WATERS TO FISH WHEN THEY COULD HAVE REACHED THE WASHINGTON COAST IN 12 HOURS?

I KNOW I DON'T HAVE ANY STATISTICS TO BACK UP WHAT I SAY BUT I WAS THERE AND THESE ARE FACTS.

THE ARROWTOOTH FLOUNDER IS A VERY IMPORTANT PART OF OUR BUSINESS AND ALSO VERY IMPORTANT FOR THE FISHERMEN IF WE ARE TO BE ABLE TO CONTINUE TO EXIST IN THIS BUSINESS.

THANK YOU,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sam Henley". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

SAM HENLEY - MANAGER
SEA K FISH CO., INC.

SDH/imc