

JUN 21 2001

Exhibit C.7.d
Public Comment 1
September 2001

SUBJECT: RED ROCKCOD CLOSURE TO SPORTFISHING BOATS OUT OF MORRO BAY

Please consider lifting the ban on Red Rockcod for Sport Fishermen for the following reasons.

First, some basic facts about Rockcod. The depth at which these fish are found ranges from approximately one hundred feet to over fourteen hundred feet. Because of the physiology of the Rockcod, their bodies are unable to compensate for the rapid ascent to the surface when they are caught. This causes the internal gasses to expand, forcing the extrusion of their bladder from the mouth cavity.

Frequently on Sportfishing boats when a Rockcod is landed, before throwing it back, a crew member will cut it. The practice of cutting the bladder to ease the internal pressure, unfortunately, does not help the fish. If the bloating has not killed the fish when it reaches the surface, the cutting will most likely guarantee it its death when it is thrown back. (Predators love blood!)

The practical approach to a balanced level of Rockfish distribution (Red Rockcod, Red Snapper, Rockcod, Rockfish, Etc.) would be to allow all the Rockcod to count in the total legal limit of the Anglers' catch. This takes the pressure off those fish not included in the closure, who are currently having to make up the total limit. Catching and throwing back Red Rockcod, which will most likely not survive, makes no sense.

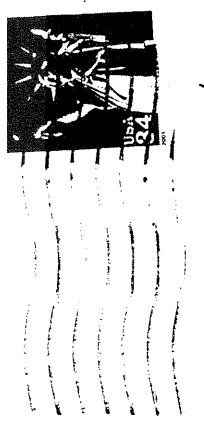
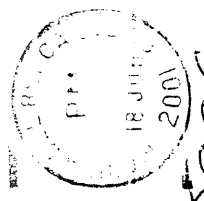
The closure of Red Rockcod fishing out of Morro Bay needs to be lifted. It makes good sense for both the fish and the Fishermen.

Respectfully;

Bill Perkinson

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Subject: closures of sport fishing landings
Date: Tue, 14 Aug 2001 23:43:48 EDT
From: <Sedwa4@aol.com>
To: kerry.aden@noaa.gov

For the information of The Council - your efforts are paying off - in my area (Ventura County) there soon will be no landings devoted to sport fishing and servicing recreational fishermen - Ventura Harbor currently has no landings and I am told Cisco's is scheduled to close at the end of the summer while Captain Hooks plans to close permanently at the end of the year. It makes me wonder if this is your intended result and whether you feel you are doing a good job?
Steve Edwards

