

Subject: [Fwd: New Halibut Rules]

Date: Mon, 25 Mar 2002 08:56:10 -0800

From: "PFMC Comments" <pfmc.comments@noaa.gov>

To: chuck.tracy@noaa.gov

----- Original Message -----

Subject: New Halibut Rules

Date: Sun, 24 Mar 2002 13:43:39 -0800

From: "Don&Susan" <nordy@olympen.com>

To: <pfmc.comments@noaa.gov>

As an active sport Halibut fisherman and a manufacture of deep sea halibut tackle, I feel that the new reg's that are being considered are addressing the sole feelings of the Charter Boat industry and not tacking the Sport Boat fisherman into account. I fish in area 3 and the way the weather has gone the last two years there has been some bad storms during early parts of the previous seasons which have kept the small boats off the water. That meant that the larger Charters made it out to the fish and us small boaters either didn't go out or were taking a risk to be able to get some fishing time. This last season when I made it out to the "HOT SPOT", as referred to in your news releases, there were more charter's than sport boats. This means that the bulk of the fish taken at the "HOT SPOT" were done so by the Charter's. The bulk of these boats came from Neah Bay where the most lobby pressure is. With the change of the closure this will take away the only close [22 mile] Halibut fishing access to LaPush that I know of at this time. I want you to know that I have actively fished out of this port since 1963 and my dad fished out of LaPush from 1947 till he moved from the area in 1962. I also want you to know that this "HOT SPOT" was first visited by a few small boaters from LaPush of which I was one of. We tried to not over fish this small area and not hurt the Yellow Eye population but as in all cases the word got out and when the charters learned of the "HOT SPOT" they moved in. Now it seems they are the ones that have put the screws to the sport boaters again. I urge you to concenter this Info in your future decisions for Area 3 both now and in the future.

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*I believe we got
more than one of those*