

SUMMARY OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME  
 GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT OPTION HEARING

Date: July 24, 2002	Hearing Officer: Mr. Roger Thomas
Location: Elihu Harris State Building Oakland, CA	Council Members: Mr. LB Boydston
Attendance: 40-45	SSC Member: Dr. Steve Ralston
Testifying: 11	CDFG Groundfish Staff: Ms. Carrie Wilson
<u>Organizations Represented:</u>	
Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations, Coastside Fishing Club.	

**Synopsis of Testimony**

Of the 11 people testifying:

- Eight spoke primarily about the recreational fishery.
- Three spoke primarily about the commercial fishery.

**Recreational Comments**

Do not support the 10 fathom restriction (various reasons offered)—5 commentors

Train people to deflate rockfish gas bladders.

A 16" cabezon is okay in addition to a 5-cabezon bag limit for recreational.

Keep 15" cabezon minimum in the recreational fishery.

Do not implement rockfish minimum size limits.

Allow for 3 or 4 reds (vermillion) in the nearshore bag limit—2 commentors.

Leave lingcod at 2 fish, 24 inches minimum—2 commentors.

Maintain current nearshore commercial/recreational split or give preference to recreational in nearshore—2 commentors.

Better economic data needed on recreational fishery.

January through April closure preferred if needed.

Keep commercial and recreational seasons the same; prefer year-round season—3 commentors.

Don't let partyboats drive the regulations; consider 5-rockfish bag limit—2 commentors.

Keep 10 rockfish bag limit.

Support retention of 1 overfished rockfish in the bag limit to prevent waste.

Close nearshore to all fishing.

## **Commercial Fishery Comments**

The live fish fishery needs to be preserved.

More observers are needed to study flatfish fishery and selective fisheries in general.

Council needs to support federal trawl buyback.

Better stock assessment data are needed.

Dover sole/thornyhead/trawl-caught sablefish complex fishery has a high impact on bocaccio.

Oppose 16" cabezon for commercial; slot limit preferred (not specified).

Ban commercial nearshore fishery—2 commentors.

Ban traps in nearshore.

Rod and reel only for commercial nearshore; ban stick gear.

Retain stick gear for commercial; seek other means to reduce catch.

Eliminate shrimp and prawn trawl due to rockfish bycatch—3 commentors.

### **Written Statements (attached)**

1. Tom Mattusch, Coastside Fishing Club dated July 24, 2002.

PFMC  
08/23/02

# *Coastside Fishing Club*

July 24, 2002

California Department of Fish & Game  
Comments on Groundfishing Options

Coastside Fishing Club, representing over 2,300 members, would like you to consider the following positions as you set the 2003 groundfishing limits.

On The Recreational Nearshore Fishery Options for 2003 document summary that contains three options, Coastside Fishing Club and its members support Option 3, as it is the most generous to the recreational fishery. We feel that the DFG has shown its wisdom in the past when it eliminated market hunting and fishing for ducks, deer, sturgeon and striped. We feel the nearshore rockfish are an analogous situation. The majority of the resource should be targeted for recreational anglers, as this is a public resource. Commercial fishing should take place only after there is a satisfying recreational fishery.

In 1966, the California legislature discussed recreational anglers having a good experience on the water. The MLMA makes reference in 7055 (c) that there should be a reasonable and satisfying recreational fishery. We ask that you curtail market fishing to satisfy the public's right to fish until there is a harvestable excess.

Allocation has not worked well in the past as shown by the cabezon fishery. Please do not fall into the fallacy of giving recreational fish away to the market sector. Recreational anglers would like the opportunity to fish 12 months a year with a 10 to 15 fish bag limit. Party boat logs, collected by DFG since 1936, have not shown recreational anglers to deplete the resource. We urge only rod and reel fishing in the nearshore for commercial activities for rockfish. This includes no stick gear.

When setting size limits for rockfish for the recreational sector, use the same size limits for the market sector.

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