

21 Feb 2003

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To: Pacific Fishery Management Council

Dear Mr, Chairman,

PFMC

Considering the sorry state of markets for troll salmon, it would be wise for the council to pursue a market based approach to setting troll seasons this year. I have two complementary proposals toward that objective.

- (1) WINTER FISHERY – We need to tap into the \$4.00 plus prices that the Alaska winter fishery is receiving. We have already begun to do this with the March 15 opening in Oregon. Fishing deeper into the winter is a total crap shoot in terms of weather and access to fish, but what would be caught would be very high value. It would go to the home guard, committed fishermen living in the coastal communities.
- (2) 28 INCH SIZE LIMIT- I am concerned that the unprecedented catch in September and October of 2002 plus a deteriorating situation on the Klamath will lead to significant season reductions despite potential high catch rates in the fishery. Other things equal, 28 inches would dampen the catch and mean more fishing days, a factor in maintaining market share. It would eliminate small fish, which are a drug on the markets, and would thus increase value. I challenge anyone to produce a biologist who would argue against an increase in size limit. It would be a responsible measure.

2003 may well be the year for this to happen. The shift to the higher size limit is least noticed in a season of abundance. Once the shift is actually made, biological and economic benefits will accrue to make the fleet better off than before.

Sincerely,



Carl Finley