



**FORKS  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, INC.**

P.O. Box 1249 ❖ 1411 South Forks Avenue ❖ Forks, WA 98331  
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**OCT 20 2003**

**PFMC**

October 8, 2003

Mr. Don Hansen, Chairman  
Pacific Fisher Management Council  
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 200  
Portland, OR 97220-1384

Dear Mr. Hansen:

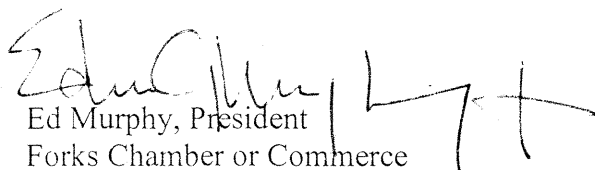
We are writing in support of the proposed changes to the Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan that are included in the WDF&W report on this subject approved for public comment by the Council on September 11, 2003.

The Forks Chamber of Commerce is in support of moving the opening day of the halibut season from May 1 to May 15. Historically, weather conditions have been better after May 15, and better weather conditions will mean that more, and smaller, craft can fish. Naturally, a later opening will make a closure in mid-May far less likely. Overall, we feel that the later opening will create a more consistent season that will be better for fishers and business alike.

The Forks Chamber of Commerce represents a broad base of businesses in an area extending from Kalaloch to LaPush. Our region has been struggling with a shifting economic base for the past decade, and maintaining a strong tourism and sport fishing industry is especially important to our community.

The Forks Chamber of Commerce recommends that the Management Council adopt the changes to the 2004 Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan proposed by the Washington State Department of Fish & Wildlife, particularly the change that would move the opening day to May 15. We feel that these changes would greatly benefit Forks and many other northwest coast communities.

Sincerely,

  
Ed Murphy, President  
Forks Chamber of Commerce



The **REST** of the Olympic Peninsula

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# **W**ESTPORT CHARTERBOAT ASSOCIATION

P. O. BOX 654 • WESTPORT, WASHINGTON 98595

October 21, 2003

Dr. Donald McIsaac, Executive Director  
Pacific Fishery Management Council  
7700 NE Ambassador Place  
Suite 200  
Portland, OR 97220-1384

Re: Pacific Halibut / Agenda Item F.2e

Dear Dr. McIsaac and Council members;

The Westport Charterboat Association fully supports the proposals regarding 2004 regulations in the Washington South Coast area. Specifically, we support programming in, pre-season, a change from a five-day to a seven-day week on July 1<sup>st</sup>. Our past experience with federal procedure has been frustrating and we agree that this is the most expeditious way to manage. We also favor any pre-season regulation that would allow the transfer of a portion of halibut quota within Washington sub-areas. We support this in order to assure full utilization of the Washington recreational quota.

We do have a concern about a delayed start date in the North Coast area. We believe this would have the potential for effort shift between the coastal areas. We support the traditional May 1<sup>st</sup> start date for all coastal areas.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Respectfully yours,



Steve Westrick, President  
Westport Charterboat Association