



Exhibit F.2.e
Public Comment
November 2003

500 East Division Street • Forks, Washington 98331-8618

(360) 374-5412 • Fax: (360) 374-9430 • Web: www.forkswashington.org

October 2, 2003

Mr. Don Hansen, Chairman
Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 N.E. Ambassador Place, Suite 200
Portland, OR 97220-1384

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OCT 10 2003
PFMC

RE: WDF&W report on proposed changes to the 2004 Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan.

Dear Mr. Hansen:

We are writing on behalf of the City of Forks, Washington, a municipal corporation with a population of 3,125 citizens. We are writing to support the proposed changes to the Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan, that are included in the WDF&W report on this subject, that was approved for public comment by the council on September 11, 2003.

Our community has been struggling with a declining economy for the past fifteen years. We have been actively pursuing methods to improve all aspects of local commerce, including recreational fishing impacts.

As stated in the WDF&W report, 2. Rational: "By moving the opening day to May 15, it would increase the likelihood that the fishery could last through the end of May." We feel that this is a very important goal, as a strong Memorial Day weekend serves as a sound platform for a successful summer tourism season.

Also of importance are the weather trends mentioned in the Rationale. These better weather trends offer greater opportunity to fish, for a much broader range of boat sizes, with safer weather conditions.

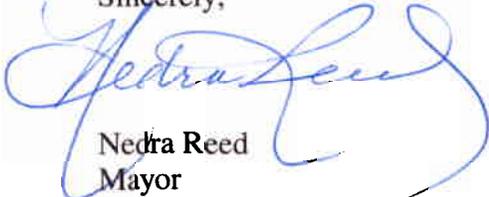
The City of Forks has sponsored numerous local halibut issue meetings over the past few years. The current May 1st opening date has been one of the highest concerns at all of these meetings. Attached is a petition of support for the proposed changes that was circulated at our most recent meeting on October 1, 2003.

Again we would like to draw your attention to the three main reasons for the May 15th opening day and how they address goals set out in the Magnuson-Stevens Act. Those issues are safety, opportunity and economy.

In closing the City of Forks would like to respectfully recommend that the council adopt the changes to the 2004 Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan as proposed by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. These changes would greatly benefit the Washington North Coast communities.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment. If you any questions about these important matters, please contact us at (360) 374-5412 ext 240.

Sincerely,



Nedra Reed
Mayor
City of Forks



R. Daniel Leinan
Clerk-Treasurer
City of Forks

Cc: US Senator Patty Murray
US Senator Maria Cantwell
US Representative Norm Dicks
Washington State Senator Jim Hargrove
Washington State Representative Lynn Kessler
Washington State Representative Jim Buck
WDF&W Director Jeff Koenings
Fish and Wildlife Commission

Subject: Changes Proposed to Area 2A Pacific Halibut Plan

Date: Thu, 16 Oct 2003 11:31:26 -0700

From: "GAZ" <zumachg@tscnet.com>

To: <Chuck.Tracy@noaa.gov>

Hello Mr. Tracey,

I'm a halibut sport fisherman living in Sequim Washington and I fish the straits around Pt. Angeles and Sequim for halibut.

I'm very concerned about the proposal by WDFW to remove the requirement to "sponser a public workshop shortly after the IPHC annual meeting" as adopted at your September meeting.

WDFW states that seeing as how they already have annual public meetings for all sportfishing, none is needed for halibut. What they don't say is that these meetings have been restricted to lake and stream fishing, not halibut issues. Also, I believe these meetings take place before the IPHC meetings so how can IPHC issues be considered?

WDFW states they have a plan in place and have no intention of changing it for several years so why have meetings?

This plan has obvious flaws. For instance, in 2002, the sport quota for inside waters was 57,393 lbs. The estimated take was 39,915 lbs. 30.5% BELOW quota!

As far as I know, results for 2003 have not been published but I guess it will be worse as the 2003 quota was raised by 10%.

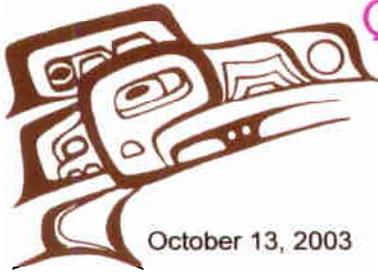
Common sense says when your plan is this far off track, there is a problem and yet WDFW wants to cut the public out of the process completely!

To sum up, I would ask IHPC to review the WFDF plan as to its effectiveness and to direct WDFW to involve the public as to ways to improve sport catch.

A few ideas may be longer and/or earlier seasons, 7 day per week fishery, and lifting of barbless hook restrictions.

Thank You

Gordon A. Zumach
230 Rainview Ln
Sequim Wa 98382
360-681-2457



QUILEUTE TRIBAL COUNCIL

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October 13, 2003

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OCT 17 2003

PFMC

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

re: W. D. F. and W. Report on Proposed Changes to the 2004 Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan.

Dear Mr. Hansen,

The Quileute Tribe at LaPush, Washington is writing in support of the letter you have received from the City of Forks and the Forks Chamber of Commerce in support of the proposed changes to the Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan that was approved for public comment on September 11, 2003.

Like Forks, our community has been struggling financially for many years. Having the only major recreational harbor for many miles, recreational fishing is extremely important to us as well.

We enthusiastically support moving the opening-day to May 15th with the likelihood that the fishery could last through the end of May and serve as an added incentive for a strong Memorial Day weekend.

Ours is a small boat harbor. It serves the needs of the recreational fleet quite well. Unfortunately, the weather in the early part of May frequently does not share our sympathies with the small boat fishermen. In our considered opinion, the three controlling goals in the Magnuson-Stevens Act being safety, opportunity and economy are all furthered by this date change. We respectfully endorse it.

We also appreciate the opportunity to comment on an interest of strong economic concern to our tribe. Should you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Most Sincerely,

Russell Woodruff, Chairman

cc: City of Forks,
Forks Chamber Of Commerce.