



Sir:

Ignoring pleas from myself and other sportsmen that go fishing not only for meat but also sport, the Calif. Fish and Game commission has capitulated to the party boat owners and approved "boat limits".

Their reasons for approving boat limits are faulty. They say it will allow a father to help his daughter catch fish, etc. The way it really works is that a fish hog that happens to have a hot spot on the boat will continue to fish and catch after he already has his limit. I have seen one "sportsman" catch seven salmon on a trip. The limit is two. They do not "pass the rod" to someone else after they have a limit as the party boat owners claim, but keep them all until the boat limit is reached and the boat heads to the dock, sometimes very early in the day. They then pick out the two largest salmon and pass the smaller ones to those that did not catch fish. As most of the party boats in this area take 15 to 35 people at a time, this practice not only allows fish hogs to catch more than their limits, but effectively cheats some of us out of the fishing experience we have paid seventy dollars or more for. For bottom fish this practice has minimal effect, as the limit is plentiful, and fish caught in deep water will die if released, but for Salmon the limit is two and this practice not only effects the Salmon population, (we are supposed to be fishing, not just catching) but throws sportsmanship right out the window. Many of us would rather go home fishless than take culls from a game hog.

I understand that your mission primarily is to protect the resource, and one of the ways you do this is to set individual bag limits. I ask that in the case of Salmon you require the state of California to enforce your individual bag limit instead of "boat limits".

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