

Exhibit C.3.c
Supplemental Public Comment
June 2004

Dear Sir/Ma'am

I would like to express my displeasure in the Black Rock Fish closure for Northern California during the months of May and September through December. This fishery is the main staple for recreational fishermen in Northern California. It's not clear to me why this regulation was enacted. According to the information on the World Wide Web (June 1, 2004) at <http://www.pcouncil.org/groundfish/gfins.html#recreational>, the prohibition of Black Rock Fish is to help Canary Rock fish. According to CDFG, the regulation was enacted because the anticipated harvest for 2004 is expected to be 3 times the amount allotted.

I disagree that the expected take being 3 times the amount allotted is a problem. First, the expected take is derived from the previous years catch, and has little to do with the next years take. The previous years catch (2003) was high because of an exceptional season indicating that the population of Black Rockfish was high. Under normal circumstances, a population is determined by the available resources to that population, not predatory pressure. An increase in the number of Black Rockfish caught is an indicative of a healthy population. Therefore if the take is high, then the conclusion is the population is high. If the Black Rockfish take is small, then there is reason to believe the population is small and regulations restricting the take should be enacted.

If the prohibition of Black Rock Fish is in response to Canary Rock Fish, I disagree with it even more. It makes no sense to prohibit the take of a very productive and desired species to protect one that is not very common within this area. Limiting, or prohibiting the take of Canary Rock Fish is an adequate strategy for protecting them.

This closure hurts California economically and socially while it does nothing to protect California's environment. I encourage legislation that would immediately reverse this regulation.

Charles Hayler
1102 Fritz Rd.
McKinleyville, CA 95519