

Agendum C.3.c
Supplemental Public Comment
September 2004

imap://john.devore@mercury.akctr.noaa.gov:143/fetch%3EUID%3E...

Subject: sport ground fish closure
From: "T Merriman" <tmer@masco.net>
Date: Tue, 31 Aug 2004 08:57:22 -0700
To: <Mike.Burner@noaa.gov>
CC: <john.devore@noaa.gov>
X-Mozilla-Status: 0001
X-Mozilla-Status2: 00000000
Return-Path: <tmer@masco.net>
Received: from relay-east.nems.noaa.gov ([205.156.4.216]) by mercury.akctr.noaa.gov (Netscape Messaging Server 4.15 mercury Jun 21 2001 23:53:48) with ESMTP id I3BJ1T00.934; Tue, 31 Aug 2004 08:58:41 -0700
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Message-ID: <6A00C4865C95EB44AF30888C8FEEEC8A019D3D@mason.masco.net>
Thread-Topic: sport ground fish closure
Thread-Index: AcSPczMCOtXl5IPwRPyMVGg3szZngA==
X-NAI-Spam-Score: -2.5
X-NAI-Spam-Rules: 1 Rules triggered BAYES_00=-2.5

Dear Mike Burner, John DeVore

I would like to express my disappointment for the total closure of sport ground fish harvesting in the oceans of Washington and Oregon. As an active sport fisherman that fishes the waters of the Columbia River and Halibut catch area #1. We have been restricted to fishing Salmon and Tuna since the miniscule 7000lb Halibut quota was reached in early July of this year. The tiny Halibut quota catch area #1, as compared to catch area 2A, was a injustice but now we no longer can plan on fishing for bottom fish on our normal harvest area 23 miles off Tillamook Head. These waters are appx. 100 fathoms deep, well past the hard fished nearshore harvest areas of the South Jetty and Tillamook Head.

This closure will require that I cancel all my trips and let my customers also cancel all hotel and dinner plans for October and November of 2004.

Our normal harvesting pattern was comprised of about 80% widow rockfish, a few lings and china rockfish. An occasional yellow eye were also thrown in the catch.

I will now plan on leaving the Northern Oregon coast upon the closure of the 2004 salmon season.

As a side note, of my 12 Halibut trips to the waters of the Astoria Canyon this 2004 Halibut season, we only had one yellow eye and no canary rockfish.

We did catch a few true cod and lots of black cod. Our trips were quite productive depending on the weather with a average of one Halibut per angler each trip. I think the central Oregon Coastal waters and the wastage of this "threatened" yellow eye and canary fish are truly a crime. One only needs to visit these waters of Newport and witness the yellow eye "floaters" and wastage of a resource.

It is sad the few commercial interests far out distance the revenue generated by public visiting and spending tourist dollars in these hard hit local coastal towns.

Tom Merriman
2504 Sahalee Drive East
Sammamish, Wa. 98074