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COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND COMMERCE

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
September 12, 2004

Agendum C.6.d
Supplemental Public Comment
September 2004

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Mr. Donald McIsaac
Executive Director
Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 200
Portland, Oregon 97220

Dear Mr. McIsaac:

I am writing regarding the Pacific Council's pending decision to adopt a range of alternatives for the groundfish Essential Fish Habitat Environmental Impact Statement.

The Nature Conservancy of California and Environmental Defense recently had informal discussions with my staff concerning an innovative idea for a private sector purchase of numerous federal bottom-trawling permits and vessels. The acquisition of permits and vessels would be contingent upon the permanent establishment of strategically placed no-trawl zones in federal marine waters extending from Point Conception to Sand Hill Bluff near Davenport, California.

As one of the principal authors of legislation aimed at reducing capacity in the Pacific Coast limited entry groundfish fleet, I would appreciate the Council's analysis of the technical, economic, environmental, and political issues associated with this proposal, consistent with all relevant rules and regulations.

I hope to continue working with the Council to reduce the economic distress in the Pacific groundfish fishery. At the conclusion of the analysis, I would appreciate my staff being briefed on the results. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lois Capps". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lois" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Capps".

LOIS CAPPS
Member of Congress