



COUNTY OF DEL NORTE
Board of Supervisors

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April 29, 2005

Pacific Fisheries Management Council (PFMC)
John DeVore, Ground Fishery Management Coordinator
77000 NE Ambassador Place
Portland, OR 97220-1384

RECEIVED
MAY 05 2005
PFMC

RE: Near-Shore sport fishery cutback and economic damage.

Dear Mr. DeVore,

The Del Norte County Board of Supervisors (BOS) has been approached by the near-shore sport fishing community concerning shortened sport fishing seasons ordered by the PFMC. The public expressed frustration and concern regarding the impacts associated with shortened seasons, and more importantly the arbitrary and non-scientific decision to shorten the near-shore sport fishing season. Although the Del Norte County BOS understands the season has been extended, this Board continues to take issue with the process that resulted in the decision to shorten the season. The Del Norte County BOS would like to express it's support for decisions based on scientific research based on industry standards rather than projections. As a result, the Del Norte County BOS requests to be included in the decision making process as early as possible, so as to avoid the current problem of identifying issues of importance after decisions have been made. The BOS feels there is information available that indicates there are solutions to the issues, and wishes to be part of the decision making process.

Sincerely,


Martha McClure,
Chair

CC. Honorable Mike Thompson, Congressman
California Fish and Game Commission, Robert Treanor, Commissioner

**FISHING VESSEL OWNERS' ASSOCIATION
INCORPORATED**

ROOM 232, WEST WALL BUILDING • 4005 20TH AVE. W.
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98199-1290
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April 18, 2005

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APR 20 2005

PFMC

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

Re: **Spiny Dogfish and Open Access Related Concerns**

Dear Chairman Hansen:

After returning from the April Council meeting, I felt we had not finished the job on the dogfish cut-off date. I thought that it should have been given a date for consideration for June or September. I know several Council members were unsupportive of the action and I suspect the majority just did not want to push the issue during the discussion of staff tasking for future Council action.

It has come to my attention that at least one of the 32 freezer longline vessels that participate in the Bering Sea Pacific codfish fishery will likely try their luck between now and June targeting on spiny dogfish off of Washington. I talked to the principles about the sensitivity of the various overfished species and I know they have been in contact with NMFS. I am sure the operation will attempt to avoid critical species. This vessel, or any other vessel using longline gear, can participate off our lower coast under the open access provisions of the Pacific Council. Since we have no OY for dogfish, the catch and potential bycatch of overfished species is not limited.

The Council could be facing an uncontrolled catch of dogfish. The Council may similarly be looking at catches of Yellow-eye and Canary, not originally discussed on the score card for overfished stocks. I believe we need to have a June agenda item to discuss this recent development and examine options for controlling the problems associated with this fishery.

Sincerely,



Robert D. Alverson
Manager

RDA:cmb

**Josh Churchman
5 Ocean Parkway
Bolinas, California 94924**

May 11, 2005

John DeVore
Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Ste. 200
Portland, Oregon 97220-1384

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MAY 19 2005
PFMC

Re: Groundfish Allocation and Management
Central California Region

Dear Mr. DeVore:

I have been a commercial fisherman in Marin County for over 30 years, and I possess a Limited Entry Fixed Gear permit, i.e. I catch fish by the hook-and-line method. Over the last several years most of the hook and line fishermen have gone out of business because restrictive regulations have made fishing in this manner economically unrealistic. During that same period of time, the regulations have actually been less restrictive to trawlers. I believe that at the present time I am one of the very few, if not the only, commercial fisherman in the Central California region still fishing by hook and line.

I recently received a chart showing all landings for thirty years in the Central California region, (San Francisco, Halfmoon Bay, Bodega Bay). The chart showed the number of pounds landed each year for Squid, Salmon, Groundfish trawl, Groundfish hook & line, and Crab.

All these fisheries have had good years and bad years, but one of them, the groundfish hook and line landings, vanished off the chart in the year 2000. The hook and line boats never caught as many pounds as the trawl fleet but we got three times the value because fish caught by this method are favored by restaurants because of their superior quality. We were not an "insignificant" fishery. Why were we targeted for extinction in the central California region?

In thirty years of fishing rockfish, I never "discarded" a single fish until the year 2000. Discard is a by-product of trawling, not hook and line fishing. Total retention would be bringing back the "historic" method for hook and line as well as restoring good

John DeVore
Pacific Fishery Management Council
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science and morality to a sad fishery that was once proud of itself. Hook and line should be the new sustainable, habitat friendly, fishery of the future.

We need access to waters less than 150 fathoms if we are realistically going to catch chili pepper rockfish. We need a total retention allocation rather than a "discard mandate." We need to be allowed to modify and experiment with hook and line gear the way the trawl fleet has been allowed to be innovative and creative. Vertical hook and line is the most habitat friendly and it is only allowed for open access vessels. Why?

Although I have been designated as someone who is to have an observer on board to assist in gathering data on fixed gear by-catch, there is no opportunity to utilize the observer's services because the current restrictive regulations are economically prohibitive. Since one of the mandates of the Magnusson Act is to preserve the economic stability of the industry, I urge you to formulate groundfish regulations which are realistic in providing me, and other fixed gear fishermen, with a meaningful opportunity to engage in our method of fishing.

I would be happy to share my views with you further on this subject, but I am unable to attend your meeting later this month in Portland. Nevertheless, please let me know what additional information you might require in order to draft fixed gear regulations which are economically realistic as well as environmentally sound. Otherwise, please provide me with a draft of your new regulations which respond to the concerns I have expressed, by increasing access to shelf rockfish in the Central California Region for hook and line fishermen. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Josh Churchman

cc: Pacific States Marine
Fisheries Commission
Michele Longo Eder
Golden Gate Restaurant Association
Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey