

Subject: 6 June 2005.doc Mark Helvey.doc
From: "Tim" <neptuneobs@adelphia.net>
Date: Mon, 6 Jun 2005 21:07:20 -0700
To: <kit.dahl@noaa.gov>

Rod McInnis
NMFS/Regional Administrator
501 West Ocean Blvd.
Long Beach, CA. 90802-4213

RE: EFP for HMS

Rod,

I have been following the progress of the HMS fishery plan since its onset and was involved at the beginning providing input and testimony at HMS advisory committee meetings. I have a long history with HMS in CA and became very disenchanted with the politics in this process as I had already 'been there and done that' on the State level. I.E: mako shark long line fishery in the mid eighties through 1991.

That being said, I am acutely aware of the sensitivities of this issue. I strongly believe there is incredibly robust fishing opportunity inside of 200 miles on the west coast for HMS. My experience is first hand via numerous projects with Monterey Bay Aquarium, I.E: opah collection by long line, NMFS with Dave Holtz, thresher shark long line project, currently active, and my tenure as an Experimental Gear Permittee in the CA mako shark fishery. I truly believe ALL of the environmental and resource issues can be addressed satisfactorily for all concerned and because of this belief, I fully support Pete Dupuy's proposal.

At a future date I would like to submit a concurrent or alternate proposal for West Coast HMS by long line and also discuss this in person or by phone.

Cordially,

Tim Athens

CC: dupuy gibbs dahl mcinnis

RECEIVED

June 7, 2005

JUN - 7 2005

To: Pacific Fishery Management Council

PFMC

Attention: Chairman Donald Hansen

My name is John Gibbs, owner of the longline fishing vessel Pacific Horizon. I have a long history of longline fishing off the west coast. However due to environmental, special interest groups, and political pressure I've had to relocate my fishing efforts to Hawaii and American Samoa.

It is my understanding that due to much effort by Pete Dupuy and Chuck Janisse with the Pacific Fishery Management Council that the Council is considering the possibility of an experimental pelagic longline fishery inside the EEZ of the west coast.

I have been interested and involved on a limited basis with Pete Dupuy and Chuck Janisse in past years in pursuing such a fishery.

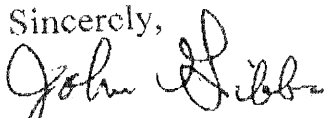
I support Mr. Dupuy and Mr. Janisse in their effort to approach this underutilized fishery inside the EEZ of the west coast and would like to go on record to indicate my desire to participate at sometime in this experimental fishery.

If giving the chance this experimental fishery could deal with any ESA issues, bird mitigation, and by catch problems that could arise. This fishery would also ease the economic hardships that west coast based longliners, unloading stations, and fish processing facilities have had to deal with.

Please support this opportunity in giving this experimental fishery a chance to succeed.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,


John Gibbs

June 7, 2005

To: Pacific Fishery Management Council

Attention: Chairman Donald Hansen

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JUN - 7 2005

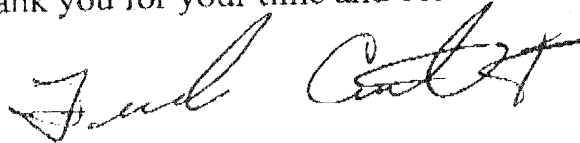
PFMC

My name is Frank Crivello; I own the longline vessel Laura Ann. I am a third generation California resident fisherman. My vessel is currently operating in the longline fishery in Hawaii. I have a history of longline fishing off of the west coast and would like the opportunity to return to California.

I support the effort by Pete Dupuy and Chuck Janisse and the Pacific Fishery Management Council on their consideration of the possibility of an experimental pelagic longline fishery inside the EEZ of the west coast.

At this time I would like the Pacific Fishery Management Council to take note that I am interested in participating in any future openings in this fishery.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter.



Frank Crivello

Agenda Item E 5

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Darin C Maurer
PO Box 2782
Carlsbad, CA 92018

JUN - 6 2005

PFMC

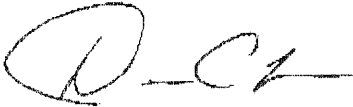
June 6, 2005

Pacific Fishery Management Council
Attn: HMS
7700 NE Ambassador Pl, Suite 200
Portland, OR 97220-1384

Dear Council Members,

Thank you for considering the preceding petition **against** the establishment of an EFP that would allow a limited entry program for a West Coast longline fishery within the EEZ. Included in the petition are 565 signatures from commercial and recreational fisherman, conservationist, individuals from the scientific and academic community, and citizens at large who all oppose the establishment of the EFP.

Sincerely,



Darin Maurer



PETITION TO THE:

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fishery Services
Southwest Region
and the
Pacific Fishery Management Council

We, the undersigned, urge the National Marine Fishery Service (NMFS) Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) **NOT** to approve the establishment of a limited entry program for the West Coast shallow set longline fishery targeting swordfish within the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) east of the 150 W Longitude. We also urge the PFMC **NOT** to issue any experimental fishing permits (EFP) that would allow a longline fishery to exist within the EEZ for the following reasons:

- It is well documented that the longline fishery worldwide has had a detrimental affect on population of several marine and bird species many of which are protected under the Endangered Species Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, and Migratory Bird Treaty Act including, Leatherback and Loggerhead turtles, Blue sharks, Marlin, Albatross, several marine mammals. Now as a result of reckless abandonment of better judgement, greed, lack of regulation we find ourselves in a reactive mode to save several species of marine life whose population has decreased so dramatically they were forced to be placed on the endangered list. The solution to protecting these endangered animals does not lie in circle hooks and mackerel bait, but rather it must come through the restriction of longlines and certainly not the addition of a new longline fishery on the west coast. We believe the approval of the EFP would directly impact the future of these species and that they should not be part of an "experiment" for profit.
- Many scientists and fisherman believe there is a direct correlation to the size of the average fish harvested relative to the size of the entire stock or biomass. It is estimated that a swordfish reaches sexual maturity at 144 cm eye-FL or between 5-6 years of age (FMP Ch.3 Pg.26). According to the FMP immature swordfish both male and female comprise of 50% of the catch by the longline and drift gill net (DGN) fisheries. In other words longliners and the DGN fishery are harvesting smaller and smaller fish every year. As a result the stock is not able to sustain acceptable levels due to a lack of reproduction. Only the harpoon fishery has the discretion of harvesting mature or immature fish because they are the only fishery that must visually identify the fish before harpooning it. This begs the question, if there are existing DGN and harpoon fisheries on the west coast of California and the average size of the fish being harvested is decreasing year after year due to the indiscretionary nature of the drift gill nets and high seas longliners in the

of California and the average size of the fish being harvested is decreasing year after year due to the indiscretionary nature of the drift gill nets and high seas longliners in the Eastern Pacific, why then would we add additional pressure on the swordfish stock by creating an experimental longline fishery on the west coast?

- Local fisherman generally agree that they are catching fewer and fewer fish each year. All would agree that the size and quantity of all Highly Migratory Species that migrate throughout the California Bite have declined since the inception of the DGN fishery in the 1980's. Recently several harpoon fisherman have been working with the scientific community to tag swordfish that migrate through the California Bite throughout the summer and fall months. The data being collected is still being analyzed, however one trend is clearly shown. The swordfish leave the California west coast in the fall and winter months and migrate south along the Baja peninsula or southwest towards the Hawaiian, and Marqueses Islands in French Polynesia. In either case they must travel through a gauntlet of unregulated longliners in the Eastern Pacific before they reach more temperate climates where they spawn.

The methodology used to perform a stock assessment of swordfish in the Eastern Pacific is abstract at best. We recommend that further evaluation of the stock be analyzed before allowing an EFP to be issued that would allow longlining within the West Coast EEZ. In addition to collecting catch data from vessels fishing on the high seas, other sources should be explored. For example there are over five decades of log book and landing data indicating fish weight and catch rate that both the harpoon and DGN fisheries have submitted to the Department of Fish and Game and NOAA. Those log books should be examined to determine if in fact the recorded catch rate and fish size have declined over the past 50 years, paying particular attention to the data submitted after inception of the west coast DGN fishery in the 1980's.

- In summery, there is tremendous pressure worldwide on the stock of swordfish. History teaches us that the longline fleet in the North Atlantic over fished the stock of swordfish in that region causing the market to collapse. For decades there was a sustainable harpoon fishery there until the advent of the longline fishery. As a result of overfishing the stock by the longliners, the North Atlantic harpoon fishery is all but defunct. The harpoon fishery is the only one true fishery that has virtually no bycatch, rarely targets any juvenile fish and is working with scientists to gain more knowledge and understanding of swordfish. If you accept the EFP and create a limited entry program for longliners within the west coast EEZ, you will be potentially contributing to the demise of both the swordfish stock, the harpoon fishery, and many jobs will be lost.

The preceding petition was drafted and signed by both commercial and recreational fisherman, conservationist, individuals from the scientific and academic community, and citizens at large.