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**PACIFIC COAST FEDERATION  
of FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATIONS**

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28 October 2005

Mr. Donald Hanson, Chair  
Pacific Fishery Management Council  
7700 NE Ambassador Drive  
Portland, OR 97220-1384

RE: Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) Applications for 2006  
Small Trawl Spot Prawn Fishery Between Point Conception and Point Magu, California

Dear Chairman Hanson:

The Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations (PCFFA), representing working fishing men and women in the U.S. West coast commercial fishing fleet, strongly supports the application by the Southern California Trawlers Association for an experimental trawl fishery, under the Pacific Fishery Management Council's Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) program, for the take of spot prawn in specified areas between Point Conception and Point Magu.

The proposal calls for the use of three small trawlers with full observer coverage in an area where the seafloor is a soft and muddy bottom, where traps tend to be ineffective. Trawls have previously been used in this area for spot prawn, so they are expected to be effective and produce a highly desirable product. The questions to be answered by this experiment are whether such a fishery can be conducted with minimum (and acceptable) levels of bycatch and with minimal impacts on bottom habitat. Proponents, including PCFFA, believe this can be done; the purpose of this exemption is to allow for an experiment to bear out whether this belief on the part of proponents and their past experience can be borne out. Moreover, unlike other areas of the coast where traps are an effective method for the taking of spot prawn, trawling on the mud bottoms between Point Conception and Point Magu appears to be the only effective method of take for spot prawns.

PCFFA respectfully requests the PFMC approve this EFP request when it is taken up at your November meeting. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact either Mr. Mike McCorkle or PCFFA staff. Your attention to this matter is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Chuck Wise  
President