

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE REPORT ON THE TENTATIVE
ADOPTION OF THE 2007-2008 GROUND FISH FISHERY
SPECIFICATIONS/MANAGEMENT MEASURES AND AMENDMENT 16-4

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) met with members of the Sport Advisory Council (SAC) on June 6, 2006 to discuss the proposed management measures for the 2007-2008 Oregon recreational groundfish fisheries. SAC is an advisory body, providing management advice to ODFW, specific to the sport groundfish and halibut fisheries, and is comprised of representatives of the charter and private sectors of the sport fishery, as well as a representative of the port commissions. Membership is distributed coastwide in an effort to have representation of each of the coastal areas.

At this meeting, ODFW staff summarized the Council preferred harvest levels for species that constrain the Oregon sport groundfish fishery (primarily canary, yelloweye, and black rockfishes) and the range of management measures that are proposed for this fishery. The comments received from the series of public meetings that were held in May 2006 were also detailed, and the same questions posed to the public in those meetings were asked of SAC. A schematic of the management measure alternatives is provided for reference in figure 1. The following summary represents the consensus opinions of SAC:

- 1) Do you prefer a year round season in preference to a shorter season with less offshore closures and a larger marine bag limit?
 - a) The majority of SAC members confirmed the desire for a year round season even if it meant reduced offshore opportunity. A minority preferred a shorter season. SAC confirmed they did not desire a marine bag limit of less than 5 fish.
- 2) Do you support a separate flatfish bag (excluding Pacific halibut) of 25 fish?
 - a) SAC unanimously supported a separate 25 fish flatfish bag limit that excludes Pacific halibut.
- 3) What do you recommend for the lingcod daily bag limit and minimum length?
 - a) The majority of SAC members supported a daily bag limit of 2 fish with a 22-inch minimum size requirement. It was thought a lingcod daily bag limit of 3 fish would increase time on the water and associated take of limiting species (i.e. canary, yelloweye and black rockfishes). A minimum size limit of 22-inches was projected to both increase the total harvest of lingcod and allow anglers to attain the lingcod daily bag limit quicker, reducing the time on the water and subsequent take of limiting species.
- 4) In the event that the low OY alternative for yelloweye rockfish is adopted by the Council, would (1) a longer groundfish season (6 months) with a reduced halibut quota (reduced by 30%) or (2) a shorter groundfish season (July through Labor Day) and no reduction to the halibut quota be preferable?
 - a) SAC discussed the economic importance of the Pacific halibut fishery to the coast especially during the spring months. Pacific halibut opportunity provides income to pay expenses that have accrued during the winter months such as insurance, moorages, rent, and basic requirements of running a business. Additionally, the local ports depend on the Pacific halibut spring fishery for income from moorage and lodging fees. SAC recommended not reducing the halibut opportunity if at all possible. SAC also discussed the importance of the groundfish fishery during months without Pacific halibut or salmon opportunity. Loss of income generated by the groundfish fishery in the non-summer

months would effectively bankrupt many of the active charter vessels in Oregon. SAC was adamant that both alternatives 1a and 1b (figure 1) are very detrimental to the fishery and coastal economy.

- 5) The issue of expanding the Stonewall Bank closure area was reviewed with SAC. Staff is recommending that the closure area be increase in size. Not only halibut fishing will be closed in the area, but groundfish will also be closed. Some SAC members expressed concern over anglers with a legally caught halibut not being able to troll for salmon over the expanded (and present) closed area. A recommendation of allowing a halibut on the vessel while trolling in the area for salmon, but with an additional gear requirement requiring trolling with either a downrigger or diver was discussed. It was thought this would make illegal targeting of halibut difficult, help enforcement, and minimize the incidental take of yelloweye rockfish.

There have been several public comment letters regarding the 2007-2008 harvest specification and management measures that have been received by ODFW for distribution to the Council.

Those letters are attached.

Figure 1. Season structure along with expected yelloweye rockfish and canary rockfish impacts for various 2007-08 Oregon recreational fishery action alternatives, compared to the no action alternative.

Alternative	Month												Marine Bag	Ling Bag	Ling Size	Yelloweye Impact (mt)	Canary Impact (mt)
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	LDay	S	O	N					
1a	CLOSED												10*	3	20	1.6	1.6
1b	CLOSED	GF open <20 fm & Halibut fishery reduced by 30%											6*	3	20	1.5	2.3
2	GF open <20 fm												5*	2	22	1.9	2.6
3a	GF open <40 fm			GF open <25 fm									5**	2	22	2.5	3.7
3b	GF open <40 fm												5**	2	22	2.9	4.0
No Action	GF open all depth			GF open <40 fm									6*	2	24	3.6	5.3

* Status quo marine bag species.

** Marine bag limit excludes flatfish which have a separate 25 fish daily bag limit.

COMFORT INN AT GARIBALDI



BY CHOICE HOTELS

6/8/06

As a manager of a hotel, in Garibaldi, I am very concerned that any change in the fishing structure would be devastating to our business, and community.

My hotel, as well as the community heavily depends on the recreational fishing industry to keep doors open, and our employee's working.

Please no action

Sincerely

General Manager

502 GARIBALDI AVENUE
GARIBALDI, OR 97118
PHONE 503.322.3338
FAX 503.322.0328

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GARIBALDI CHARTERS

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Pacific Fisheries Management Council
Chairman David Hansen
Council Members

June 6, 2006

Dear Sirs,

We have reviewed the options for the Oregon recreational fishery presented to us by the ODFW. We would like you to understand what these options mean to our business. In 2005, 37% of our gross was earned from Jan to June and another 10% was earned in Sept and Oct. No small business, charter fishing or any of the other businesses connected to fishing can sustain the type of closure suggested in Option 1a. Since most of that 37% of gross is made from the May-June Halibut fishery, Option 1b is almost as bad. With all of the cutbacks we have had for the last three years, the spring Halibut fishery is all that has been keeping us alive.

Option 2 and Option 3a will put so much pressure on the rock fish that we will could be shut down as early as the first of July which will also put the charter fleet out of business. Even 3b is not a good choice as almost half of our trips from May to June were beyond forty fathoms for either Halibut or Ling Cod. We have only caught six yellow eye so far this year. The Captains are very good at staying away from any Yelloweye areas, and there are no Yelloweye at our 800' all-depth Halibut grounds.

We understand that the GMT came up with a step down program that might help reduce some of the adverse impacts of these drastic actions. Please consider using it. Present time assessments, done on the actual reef habitat where most yellow eye reside, rather than trawl fish data, needs to be done immediately. When the best available science uses old data, statistical theory and has no way to measure age or recruitment, there will never be a recovery! We believe you have come very close to the bottom line for most charter fishing businesses this year. The "No Action Option" is the only acceptable one left. Our family has been charter fishing for over 30 years. All of our children are in the fishing business-two are charter boat Captain's, one works for the ODFW and the youngest helps manage our charter office. Please do not let politics and questionable data ruin our family business, and our community's future!

Sincerely,

Mick & Linda Buell
OWNERS, Garibaldi Charters.



Independent Fish Filleter
Kelly Barnett
8365 Warren Street
Bay City, OR 97107
(503)377-0259
kellybarnett12@hotmail
"have knife... will travel"

Pacific Fishery Management Council
Donald Hansen, Chairman

Mr. Hansen and Fellow Councilors,

As an independent business owner and lifelong lover of the Oregon Coast and Pacific Ocean I applaud your commitment, work and dedication to the issues that affect the present and future of my home and livelihood.

In regards to current proposals for the 2007 and 2008 sports ground fishing regulations and management issues before the council I would like to offer the following opinions and observations.

First of all, most of the problems that I see and am experiencing are related to stock assessments and ABC's/OY's for canary, black and yelloweye rockfishes as well as a perceived ignorance of the social and economic impacts these assessments and council decisions based on these assessments have had on me and my community. These "best available science" studies are inherently flawed as there is no good science or studies as a starting point to draw conclusions from. We must work together to redefine what "best available science" means and how it is used in council decisions and deliberations, we must also work together on a simpler and cheaper approach to data collection that includes more anecdotal evidence and emphasizes acoustic studies over more expensive video technologies.

Ever decreasing bag limits and seasonal depth restrictions have crippled my ability to make a living in my chosen career, following in my father's footsteps as a fish filleter for both sports and commercial fishing enterprises. When I began my business the Oregon bag limit was 15 rockfish it is currently 6 marine fish, the effect this drastic and sudden lowering of sports as well as commercial catch limits has driven nearly all of the seafood workers and managers I know out of the fishing community or into a lowered standard of living. This is only the tip of the social and economic impacts that are occurring; I implore you to consider these hardships before you cut back and restrict my fishing community anymore.

In specific I am referring to the proposals for 2007-08 Oregon Recreational Fisheries proposal from ODFW, of which I have included a copy. Of the options listed the only one I feel that will not fatally wound my fishing community is the "No Action" alternative. We who have survived in the industry have tried our best to be creative and industrious to adapt to the recent "catastrophe" that has befallen us and continue on as a community. Any further restrictions to bag or depth limits would be disastrous to my business as well as my fishing community, I am afraid it cannot take another blow without dying. So please do not ignore the impacts decisions based on flawed conclusions will make to the social and economic dynamics of my fishing community.

Thank You for Your Dedication,

June 7, 2006

PFMC
Chairman- David Hanson
Council Members

To whom it may concern:

I am writing in response to your proposed season structure impacts for the 2007-08 recreational fishery action alternatives, compared to the no action alternative.

As the former owner of Garibaldi Charters and now a employee for the company I have a vested interest in the sport fishing industry in Garibaldi. The only acceptable alternative is the NO ACTION PLAN. Your 1a and 1b plans would by our records cause us to lose 50% of our business. Your plan 2, 3a and 3b are also unacceptable. If 1a and 1b were to be put into effect not only would the charter business be closed, but it would also effect the shops, gas stations, restaurants, grocery store, banks and every other business in Garibaldi. With the gas prices going up, the price of a day of fishing and lodging going up and our fishing seasons less and less our quota's being cut, how much longer do you think anyone can stay in the fishing industry and make a living. Well, let me tell you something, they can't and it's a shame. For the past 15 years we hung in there because we wanted to fish so people could have the experience but we can't much longer, and the sad part about it is that the ocean is full of fish.

Please weigh your options carefully and we can only hope your decision will be the right one as the Charter Companies really don't have too much to say about their future in this matter.

REMEMBER THE NO ACTION PLAN IS THE ONLY ACCEPTABLE ONE.

Thank You



Sharon Davis
Davis Fisheries



Classy Touch Imports & Gifts
236 Garibaldi Avenue P.O. Box 605
Garibaldi Oregon 97118

June 8,2006

Pacific Marine Council

Attention: Dave Hansen and Council Members

Dear Sirs:

It has been brought to my attention that there has been a proposal made to change the fishing guide lines for the year 2007-08, which will impact our fishing community greatly.

As a member of the Chamber of Commerce and a Business owner in Garibaldi, I feel we all depend on the fishing season heavily to support our town. They buy their gas here, stay in our motels, eat at our restaurants and shop at our local retail shops.

I feel adopting measure 1A or 1B would surely put the Charter Boats out of business. Which means I would have to eventually close my doors too.

I would hope you would accept my vote to take no new action.

Sincerely,

Gerry Bales
Classy Touch Gifts and Art Gallery

Pacific Fisheries Management Council
Chairman David Hanson
Council Members

Dear Sirs,

I have been in the fishing industry since 1968 and owned KERR LIND CHARTERS since 1975. There have been many changes in regulations, limits and prices during this time. We try to help the local economy by having customers use local motels, food services, and gift shops. We are trying to survive.

The 2007-08 ODFW options was shown to me yesterday. There is only one option to help us stay in business: NO ACTION.

I concentrate on the fish inside 40 fathoms from May to early Sept. Other charters go "out deep" for the halibut and cod. We should be allowed to do that for a longer period of time. When we are forced inside, the quota goes quickly.

Let us fish. Don't confuse the public with constant changes. Help Haribaldi businesses.

Thank you,
Jon F. Brown
06/08/06



Jim & Alberta Stamm, Managers

P.O. Box 584
227 Garibaldi Avenue
Garibaldi, Oregon 97118

(503) 312-2672
Fax (503) 312-1500
Toll Free 800-447-1111
bayshoreinn.com

6-8-2006

PFMC

Chairman & Council Members,

Dear Sirs,

We have been informed that you are considering greatly reducing the number of fishing days for the 2007-2008 fishing season. My husband and I have managed the Bayshore Inn in Garibaldi for many years. In the spring, the bulk of our customers come from recommendations of the local charter offices. Many private boat owners stay with us, too. Any reduction in fishing could be devastating to our business.

We understand that some of the options you are considering could actually put charter offices completely out of business. This would seriously affect our whole community as the fishing and related businesses, and the lumber mill are our only employers. Instead of being one of Oregon's true fishing villages, we could become one of Oregon's newer ghost towns. Please consider the economic restrictions these type of regulations would have for all of Oregon's coastal towns. Our fishermen are always amazed by the abundance of fish around here, so it is hard to understand why you would have to shut down a whole industry because you think one species may be endangered.

Sincerely,

James A. Stamm
Alberta R. Stamm

Loyce B. Bass
P.O. Box 408
Garibaldi, OR 97118

Dave Hansen and Council Members
Pacific Marine Fisheries Council

June 8th, 2006

Dear Mr. Hansen and Council Members:

It is with dismay I have learned of possible additional limitations of the charter fishing season in my beloved Garibaldi and other Pacific Coastal areas.

Please consider my concerns in your decision:

- The negative effect on the livelihood of charter businesses in our already economically struggling area
- The negative effect on the spin off business locally, i.e.: motels, restaurants, retail businesses
- Limitations on the opportunity for visiting and local fishermen's family members to experience the lively port area, including educational opportunities of the importance of the bay and estuary
- The negative effect to the Port of Garibaldi, as fewer charter businesses survive to utilize the charter slips

My family and I have been coming to this area since 1982, enjoying the fishing village atmosphere enhanced by the charter boats and the tourist business they attract.

It is my request that no changes be made in the current season and allowable catch.

Please allow the charter industry to survive, as it barely doing at this time. Garibaldi and other coastal communities need the life infused by the fishing industry.

Thank you for your kind consideration of my input into your decision.

Very truly yours,

Loyce B. Bass
Loyce B. Bass

June 8, 2006

Atten: Pacific Fishery Management Council
Don Hansen, Chair and Council Members
Reg: 2007-2008 Ground Fish Regulations

After attending the public meetings held by ODF&W and learning about what the PFMC is considering I felt it necessary to advise you of our situation.

We are a family business operating two six pack charter boats fishing out of Gold Beach and Port Orford. Due to the past and certainly current salmon regulations over 90% of our business is halibut and bottom fish.

We operate year round and depend on this as our livelihood for my wife and myself and our two sons as well as one employee. Any further restrictions i.e. shortened seasons, reduced bag limits or depth restrictions above what we deal with now would severely impact our business in a negative way to the point of putting us out of business.

We understand the conservation issues and practice release techniques developed by the ODF&W using release baskets and fishing shallower water whenever possible.

Our customers, due to the population base, travel a minimum of three hours to fish with us and as a result spend time coming and going in the community which also adds to the economic value of them fishing with us. We are the only charter business out of these two ports that work on a full time basis and this opportunity for customers to fish and ourselves make a living in a tourism based economy would be lost in the event further restrictions were put in place.

We ask the PFMC carefully reviews this when they set the regulations as we are not the only ones that will be put out of business as there are others exactly like us up and down the coast.

I thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Mark Lottis

Mark Lottis, Partner
Five Star Charters
Gold Beach

June 7, 2006

Atten: Pacific Fishery Management Council
Don Hansen, Chair and Council Members
Reg: 2007-2008 Ground Fish Regulations

This letter is to convey our Association's position on further restrictions on ground fish i.e. season limits and/or bag limits.

We represent over fifty individuals and local businesses that depend heavily on the recreation and economic value that this brings to the Gold Beach area.

Our fishing grounds are already highly restricted naturally as of result of weather conditions that prevent over fishing. We need a full year round season just to get in a reasonable amount of fishing days. If any further restrictions are put on rock fish and lingcod we will for all practical purposes not have any opportunities at all for this fishery.

Please take this into consideration when making the 2007-2008 regulations.

Sincerely,



Don Foss, Secretary
Curry Sportfishing Association

Port of Newport

600 S. E. BAY BOULEVARD

NEWPORT, OREGON 97365

(541) 265-7758

FAX (541) 265-4235

Memo

To: Pacific Fisheries Management Council (PFMC)

From: Don Mann, General Manager

Copies: ODFW Commission
Port of Newport Commission

Date: June 12, 2006

Re: Proposed Management Measures for the 2007-08 Oregon Recreational Groundfish Fishery

Please consider the following comments and information prior to any final decisions that will affect or change the present groundfish fishery off the Oregon Coast.

It is our recommendation that the no action alternative be taken based on the following:

- In consideration of *Action Alternative 1a*, it should be noted that 48% of all 2005 angler trips out of Newport were for groundfish. This proposed alternative would represent a 20% loss of all angler trips. This represents approximately 20% loss of launch revenue, recreational moorage fees -- both long and short term, charter lease fees, as well as visitors to our RV Park. These numbers equate to a 15% loss of revenue to our total annual budget, nearly \$344,000 ... just one port on the Oregon Coast.
- *Action Alternative 1b* could have an even larger affect due to the fact that the Department is proposing to reduce the recreational halibut catch and further reduce time on the water. It has taken nearly 10 years to rebuild and bring back the halibut stocks to the point that Oregon recreational fishers rely and look forward to the halibut openers as a relief to the salmon restrictions that keep mounting.
- It is difficult, with such little time to prepare, to place an exact dollar amount on the economic impact that the proposed management measures could have locally, especially given the fact that we are right in the middle of one of the worst salmon disasters to hit the coast since the listing of the coho.

I don't have the answers or another alternative that would further reduce the impacts on the yelloweye rockfish and canary rockfish, but I do know that any further restrictions to bottom fish bag limits or reduced fish days is not a good idea.

The Port of Newport recommends status quo.

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Serving the Maritime & The Recreational Communities
Newport International Terminal (541-265-9651 Newport Marina at South Beach (541) 867-3321