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PACIFIC COAST FEDERATION  
of FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATIONS

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23 August 2006

Dr. Donald McIsaac, Executive Director  
Pacific Fishery Management Council  
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101  
Portland, OR 97220-1384

RE: Exempted Permit Application – Groundfish

Dear Dr. McIsaac:

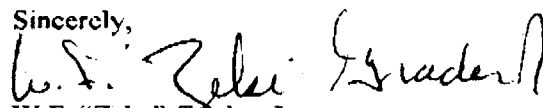
The Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations (PCFFA), representing working men and women in the West Coast commercial fishing fleet, supports the applications by a group of San Francisco Bay Area commercial fishermen for an exempted permit in the Groundfish Fishery.

The proposed experiment is intended to demonstrate the viability of a variation of hook-and-line gear for the take of specified species of rockfish. The intent is to develop a selective fishery that will allow for recovery of stocks of concern while targeting on abundant stocks of rock fish in the development of a low volume, high value fishery utilizing hook-and-line gear.

Many of the details of this proposal are in development, but we will be prepared to discuss it more fully with the Council at its September meeting. The importance for our organization and many of the locally-based fishermen is that this type of fishery has the potential for supporting many of the smaller boat fishing operations, maintaining fishing port infrastructure and providing consumers with a high quality, high value product.

If you, Council members of staff have any questions regarding PCFFA's endorsement of this exempted permit application, please notify us. Your attention to this matter is appreciated.

Sincerely,

  
W.F. "Zeke" Grader, Jr.  
Executive Director