

Mr. Donald K. Hansen  
Chairman  
Pacific Fishery Management Council  
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101  
Portland, Oregon 97220-1384

November, 03, 2007

Dear Chairman Hansen and members of the Pacific Fishery Management Council,

My name is Michael Lucas and I am an owner of North Coast Fisheries Inc., based out of Santa Rosa, CA. We buy fish from Ports ranging from Southern CA. to the Washington State line. We have facilities that we own and maintain with work forces in the various locations. I am writing to ask you to oppose the allocation of quota to processors in the IFQ program for the West Coast Trawl Fleet. If quota is allocated to processors based on past processing history it will be a great injustice to smaller processors such as me.

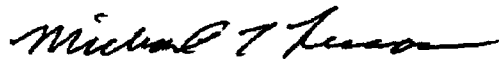
There are a handful of processors remaining who would own the entire quota. Actually I am one of those (although smaller) I would gain strictly from a monetary standpoint. However there is no fair way to allocate this resource to companies who have not played fairly while building their processing histories. In the past there have been many unfair tactics used by the bigger companies to have market advantages over the smaller companies. Some tactics within the law and many which were not.

I for one have been hurt by these tactics and bought much less volume than I would have; if I were not competing with cheap fish that was below what was a legit cost. If you would like details at a later time I could explain the circumstances that did exist.

I do not believe in quotas of any sort to anyone period. It is my strong belief that the resource is a public property and should not be willed into the hands of the private sector in any way shape or form. Persons wanting to get into this business should have the right to do so provided they are able without having to purchase the chance to catch fish that have not even been harvested.

There is absolutely no justification for a giveaway of public trust resources to a handful of very large processing companies that will create such devastating impacts for other processors and in-kind create a devastating scenario for the fishermen who would quickly become puppets for a small handful of processors. Competition is healthy for all and is and always has been the American way of life. Why create a scenario that changes that? Please oppose initial allocation of quota.

Sincerely,



Michael T Lucas, President North Coast Fisheries Inc.