



**Western
Pacific
Regional
Fishery
Management
Council**

October 18, 2007

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

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PFMC


Dear Dr. McIsaac,

We received your letter (9/20/07) that provided scoping comments on the proposed Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS) for potential regulatory modification for the Hawaii-based swordfish shallow-set longline fishery. We understand from your letter that the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) is undergoing a regulatory development process for a potential high seas limited entry longline fishery, and that you have requested that whatever proposed action is recommended by the PFMC on this issue that it not be precluded by actions taken by the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council (WPFMC).

We appreciate the PFMC's apparent intent to develop a high seas longline fishery, however, we also do not want potential modification of our management regime precluded by currently intangible alternatives under preliminary consideration by the PFMC. For this reason, the WPFMC, at its 139th meeting held last week (October 9-12, 2007) recommended that a potential West Coast-based longline fishery be considered, if applicable, in the cumulative impacts section of the DSEIS, but not considered as a component of the WPFMC's proposed action to be selected by the Council at its March 2008 meeting.

WPFMC staffers are currently writing the DSEIS and we would appreciate knowing the PFMC proposed action as soon as possible so as to include the expected level of fishing effort and anticipated impacts of a potential West Coast-based high seas longline fishery in the cumulative impacts section of the DSEIS.

Please call me if you wish to discuss this issue in greater detail.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kitty".

Kitty M. Simonds
Executive Director