

TO: Pacific Fishery Management Council

3/04/08

FROM: Mike Shedore

F/V Cinda S

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SUBJECT: Albacore Pole+Line/Troll Limited Entry within West Coast EEZ

My name is Mike Shedore. I am an albacore fisherman/processor and boat owner with 30 years of continuous participation in the Pole and Line/troll albacore fishery off the West Coast.

I am affiliated with Northwest Albacore Producers Association, a group of like minded individuals with similar levels of experience and participation in this fishery. I also maintain membership in AAFA and WFOA, two other albacore related organizations.

We ask the council once again, as was done through similar correspondence last year, to place the issue of Limited Entry for the coastal pole and line/troll fleet on the table, on the Council Agenda, for input and action during future meetings.

There was an established control date put in place in 2000 to address this issue and since that time the subject has only received cursory attention by the Council. What has occurred during this time is increased speculative effort .

This increased speculative effort will compromise the viability of this fishery. What has prevented the potential free for all of effort is the current economics of the fishery which can be described in one word and maybe an expletive or two which I will refrain from using, and the economic viability is poor.

We were looking at ex-vessel prices last year for the bulk of our coastal production at between \$.70 cents and \$.85 cents a pound, which is not much higher than what is paid for bait in the coastal crab fishery. These ex-vessel

prices have been flat for a long time. But long time fishermen with catch history, economic dependence and innovation on their own and thru organizations such as AAFA and WFOA are making inroads into the value added market here and abroad and there is significant potential for the coming season and beyond for our full time fleet to realize some return on our efforts in realizing some good gains in prices.

But the looming specter of literally hundreds of vessels jumping into this fishery unchecked when economic conditions are good, which will come about, is the threat (overcapitalization) that the Council needs to and has an obligation to address.

This fishery is the last major open access fishery on the West Coast! The fishery takes place in a relatively small portion of our coast. The resource and the marketplace, the safety and investment of long time producers will be compromised and impacted by allowing unfettered entry, which cannot take place in other major fisheries within our EEZ. The Council needs to act . All the factors that are in place in other fisheries that justify effort control, that I have mentioned, are present in this fishery.

It was referenced to me that certain individuals that advise the Council, either indirectly or directly, have stated that “no other country or management bodies either federally or internationally have promoted limited entry or effort controls on albacore”. That statement is false. Countries that have domestic albacore fisheries within their respective EEZ’s similar to ours such as Canada and New Zealand, regardless of what is going on in the international arena, have and do impose effort control (Limited entry). I remind you, our coastal albacore fishery takes place in our own EEZ.

Thank you once again for your consideration..

Mike Shedore