



Noyo Port District
Noyo Harbor District
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Fort Bragg, CA 95437
707-964-4719 Fax 707-964-4710

Agenda Item D.4.g
Supplemental Public Comment
March 2008

Donald Bradley
Chairman

Robert Armitage
Vice Chairman

Joe Caito
Commissioner

Charles White
Commissioner

James Burns
Commissioner

Jeanie Mokma
Secretary/Treasurer
Assistant Manager

Jere Kleinbach
Manager

November 8, 2007

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Fish & Game Commission
Department of Fish and Game
P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

PFMC

Re: Ocean Sport Fishing - Fishing Rod Limits

Dear Members:

The Noyo Harbor Commission requests your favorable consideration of our proposed modification to the existing fishing rod limits.

This request was initially made in year 2000. Now due to an even better understanding of the significance of "Global Warming", we are requesting that you consider permitting each boating fisherman the use of two fishing rods per person, except on charter boats. The justification is obvious, the less time spent on the ocean, the less energy used and, in turn, the less impact on global warming. Attached is a copy of information forwarded to us by Don Ballanti, Certified Consulting Meteorologist. The data is provided by the California Environmental Protection Agency, more specifically, it's "Emission Inventory Procedure Manual".

We had requested this change earlier, however, your staff said that due to the possibility of a fisherman needing one fish and accidentally catching two it could endanger the life of the second fish. At that point we reminded the staff of their earlier argument of just how safe barbless hooks are when required to release fish. To justify barbless hooks, the staff indicated the chance of hurting fish when released was minimal.

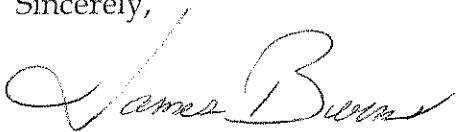
In any event, since that time your regulation has changed and it now permits a boat of two or more to continue fishing until the boat has reached its limit. See Fish & Game Regulation, Section 1.95(e). For example, if you have two fishermen fishing for salmon and one fish is needed for their limit and they both catch a fish, one has to be released. This change in regulation now counters the staff's earlier argument. Further, to carry this to the extreme, your regulation applies to charter boats as well. Another example; if a charter boat has 35 passengers and they have caught 69 salmon and need one more for it's limit, according to your regulation the 34 people that have their limits could still fish, along with the individual that needs one fish, and in theory 35 additional fish could be caught and 34 would have to be released.

Since sport boats versus party boats make up about 95-97% of the fishermen it seems to be a reasonable and logical request with minimal impact on the fishery, yet significant improvement to the environment. In addition, it is consistent with the second rod permit that you have now approved for many inland fishing areas.

Another thought would be to charge \$10.00 for the second rod. Assuming there are 500,000 ocean sports fishermen and 50% purchased a second rod permit, the agency would recognize an annual revenue of \$2,500,000.00 for no additional work or impact on the fishery.

Your favorable consideration will be appreciated. Should you have any questions, please contact me at the above letterhead address or I can be reached at 707-961-1952.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James K. Burns". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

James K. Burns, Commissioner
Noyo Harbor Commission

CC: Pacific Fishery Management Council