

Subject:keeping bycatch

Date:Thu, 21 Feb 2008 16:40:23 -0800

From:mat keller <mkel@sonic.net>

To:Jim.Seger@noaa.gov

I understand that the Council is discussing the elimination of open access in the groundfish fishery, and that a new permit category is being considered ("C") to allow near-shore permit holders to keep incidental catch of deeper water species. I am not a rockfish permit holder, but that sounds like a reasonable plan, why create wasted bycatch.

I fish salmon out of Bodega Bay, and when fishing inside the RCA I sometimes bring up rockfish or lingcod. If they are rockfish that I can retain under both the federal and state regulations I do so. As a holder of a Fisherman's Retail license I sell these fish at farmers markets or to neighbors. A small part of my income, but much better than releasing "floaters" to be pecked to death by the gulls. Other trollers will sometimes take the two or three fish home for their families.

If open access is ended I would like to see provision for salmon (and California halibut) trollers to continue to retain the bycatch that they have been able to retain under open access. This would not increase the take of rockfish, since the troller is not going to alter his activity to target them, their price being so much lower than that of salmon.

I hope this will be discussed.

Mat Keller
F/V Candice

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FEB 14 2008

Members of the P.F.M.C.

PFMC

My name is Bill Forkner, I'm a commercial fisherman with more than 40 years of fishing out of Noyo Harbor in Fort Bragg, California.

I write to you in regards to the up coming talks on the open access Black Cod fishery. I've participated in this fishery since it began and have watched it go from a clean, unpressured, open fishery, to a high pressured, gear laden fiasco, taken over by a few greedy individuals intent on grabbing as much of a small quota as possible with no regard to the health of the fishery, the condition of the grounds, they are saturating with gear, or the well being of their fellow fisherman.

At the fall informational meeting in Santa Rosa we read how it was the counsel's goal to prevent over capitalization of this fishery. I recently did a count of the vessels in Novo that either are or at some point have been involved in open access Black Cod. Of the 39 boats in total, a mere 3 owners own 19. One father and son team fish 11 boats weekly. Sometimes fishing 2 boats each in one day. The problem with this type of high production fishing is the gear needed to catch the limits needed.

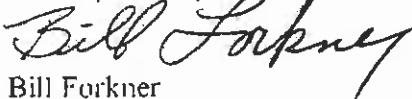
Most single vessel owners have between 3 and 5 sets of gear in the water where as the father and son team has reported to 50 sets of Black Cod gear. Neither the grounds nor the Cod population can handle this pressure.

What myself and most of the coast fisherman, (over 90% by the meetings held coast wide) would like to see is if you are going to make open access a limited fishery is to put any permit on the man and not the boat, thus protecting this fishery from the over capitalization it's experiencing now, while at the same time returning this fishery to the equal opportunity for all involved fishery it once was.

Another solution is that if the permit must go to the boat perhaps you can put a limit on the number of boats one can have involved in this fishery, hopefully no more than 2, to help restore sensibility to this fishery.

I know you folks have many hard decisions to make and this is one of them. I hope you can take into consideration not just the people involved but the fishery itself, when you make your decision.

Thank you for your time.



Bill Forkner
Vice Present
Salmon Trollers Marketing Assoc.
Fort Bragg, Ca
707-964-7064

Subject: open access/limited entry

From: lucky50@humboldt1.com

Date: Tue, 04 Mar 2008 18:06:03 -0800 (PST)

To: John.DeVore@noaa.gov

X-Mozilla-Status: 0001

X-Mozilla-Status2: 00000000

Return-path: <lucky50@humboldt1.com>

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Received: from 208.106.101.52 (SquirrelMail authenticated user lucky50) by dialmon.humboldt1.com with HTTP; Tue, 04 Mar 2008 18:06:03 -0800 (PST)

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User-Agent: SquirrelMail/1.4.2

Original-recipient: rfc822;john.devore@noaa.gov

John,

Here's a copy of the letter I sent in August regarding open access. Can you make sure it's on file for the upcoming meeting.

Thanks Mike

Mike Zamboni

August, 4 2007

CA Commercial Beach Fishermens Assn.

1341 Belnor Rd

Mckinleyville, CA 95519

Mr. Donald K. Hansen

Pacific Fisheries Management Council

7700 NE Ambassador Place Suite 101

Portland, Oregon 97220-1384

RE: Limited entry for open access

Dear Chairman Hansen,

We would like to see a preferred alternative adopted for the open access groundfish fisheries that caps number of participants in the fishery but does not significantly reduce it from existing levels. With the possible exception of Nearshore, which is currently state permitted, the open access portion of the groundfish fishery was not designed to become a limited-entry fishery but rather a supplemental fishery on poor crab and salmon years. During the previous two years of minimal salmon seasons, open access groundfish was the only source of summer income for many of our members.

Allowing recent participants as well as those with a long history of landings to qualify you will allow those individuals who currently depend on the fishery continued access. The federal 40'10" line may need to be used in establishing qualifying criteria since quotas of federally managed open-access groundfish are significantly higher south of the line. Our recommendation is for qualifying criteria North of the federal management line.

We recommend that the preferred alternative include all fishermen that have landed at least 1000 lbs. of open-access groundfish during the window period 1998 to September 2006 with at least one of those landings in 2005 or 2006 to show recent participation. All qualifying fishermen should be allowed continued access to all open access federal groundfish fisheries (Sable, Shelf, Slope, Lingcod, Shark). This option would allow current participants as well as long term participants to remain fishing.

A California open-access fleet of approximately 500 vessels a similar amount as in 2006 is a reasonable number to maintain the fishery. Any applicants whose permit application is denied must be able to appeal to a mandatory review board for consideration of outstanding circumstances. If a limited entry program is adopted the permits must remain transferrable to continue the current level of participation and the markets and infrastructure that are dependent upon it. By adopting this measure as the criteria for eligibility you can achieve your capacity goals without causing unnecessary hardship for longterm fishermen.

Sincerely,

Mike Zamboni

President, CA Commercial Beach Fishermen's assn. (15 members)

Aron Newman President ,

Humboldt Fishermen's Marketing Association (40 members)

Craig Goucher President,

Trinidad Bay Fishermens Marketing Assn.