

F/V Pacific Mistress

Captain Mark L. Roberts

P.O. Box 786, Pacific City, OR 97132

503-537-6465

To John.DeVore@NOAA.Gov
Pacific Fishery Management Council
Public Comment for June 2008 Council Meeting

On April 28th, 2008 the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife held a public meeting to discuss the setting of harvest levels and management measures for the next two years of recreational and commercial ground fish fishing. During that meeting I was made aware of several concerns that I would like to address in this letter.

Two Year Management Schedule

The first issue that was raised that concerns me is the PFMC's two year management schedule. With new information constantly coming to light I feel that it is detrimental to our fisheries to address harvest levels and management measures only once every two years.

When decisions are made for the 2009-2010 fishing years, no matter what new data comes to light we will be stuck with the harvest guidelines adopted in 2008 and there will be no means of addressing ever changing fish data again until 2011.

Since there will be full assessments on many species and updated assessments on several species of rockfish in 2009, and since the previous assessments are still driving an ever down-ward harvest based on the old data, I believe that waiting until 2011 to act on the new data is too long to wait. My small business depends on being able to catch fish. The sooner the data is incorporated into the models with the possibility of larger harvest levels, the better.

An example would be the "canary in the coal mine" issue of the Yelloweye Rockfish. Yelloweye is scheduled for a "Full Assessment" in 2009. If that assessment shows a miraculous rebuilding of the species ahead of schedule (ala Ling Cod), the PFMC would not be able to relax rules on this species until 2011, possibly leaving other, more plentiful species (such as Ling Cod) under fished with quota left on the table.

Interpretation of Data

The second concern I brought home from the meeting: How the data is being interpreted. If the assessment is interpreted and then reinterpreted later, it appears to the fishermen that there is the possibility that the data is being manipulated to achieve an end or to justify previous decisions. As explained to us in the meeting, stock assessments were done over the course of several years on one species, but at different times of the year. The data was crunched and then later reevaluated with the different times of year factored in and different conclusions were made about the health of this particular species. This gives the fishermen less than stellar confidence in the data that controls our ability to make a livelihood.

Management zones

The third concern is the North-South split "Management Zones" (40.10 degree line). When the data is looked at for Yelloweye Rockfish, it is obvious that the "hot spots" for catching Yelloweye are all centered around Northern California and Southern Oregon. Commercial Fishermen on the Central and Northern Oregon coast do not have the type of interaction with the Yelloweye that fishermen on the Southern Oregon and Northern Californian coast seem to be having. It was pretty much agreed upon in our meeting on April 28th in Tillamook that there should be more federal management zones to better model the impacts on Yelloweye that different parts of the state are inflicting. On the Central and Northern Oregon coast, the near shore rock fishermen are having very small to Zero impact while fishing for Black & Blue Rockfish and for Ling Cod. To limit *us* because of the excesses of our more southerly brethren seems to be grossly unjust.

Proposed Depth Restrictions and/or Further Catch Limitation

Depth restrictions and/or reductions in target species catch to protect Yelloweye Rockfish for all near shore rockfish fishermen seems to be overkill. Near shore Black and Blue Rockfish and Ling Cod fishermen on the North and Central Oregon Coast are having a near Zero impact on the Yelloweye population. Either or both of these proposed options to "protect" Yelloweye will become an extreme economic hardship on the near shore fishing fleet in the North/Central Oregon Coast areas.

The proposal for further depth restrictions was explained to us as a change from a 30 fathom maximum fishing depth to a 20 fathom maximum fishing depth, with the possibility that the 20 fathom number could be reduced to 15 fathoms. This kind of restriction would probably not affect the Southern Oregon Coast as much as it affects the North/Central Coast. In Southern Oregon the reefs are close to shore, with many fishermen fishing in water as shallow as 3 fathoms of water. In the North/Central part of the Coast, most of our reefs don't even begin inside 15 fathoms and most are in deeper water ... in the 25-45 fathom range. Our reefs from 30-45 fathoms have all ready been closed to us and these were historically some of our best producing reefs.

The economic impact for my operation of not being able to fish the waters between 20 & 30 fathoms of water is that I will be pushed off the most productive reefs on which I fish for Ling Cod (I hold a Black and Blue permit, but rarely target them). I would be forced to spend more days at sea, burning more fuel, losing more tackle and making less per pound. I sell Ling Cod to a live fish market and my live fish buyer will come to port for our present one month quota, but will not come to port of only small portions of that

quota. I believe that, in dollar terms, the economic impact would be as much as \$850 - \$860/month or \$5,950 - \$6,020 a year. (I am basing these assumptions on having to sell the Ling Cod at a lower price if sold dead and loss of monthly quota that I will not be able to catch each month in the shallower water. At the present time I am earning \$3.25/lb for live Ling Cod. Please note, I have NOT factored in the additional fuel I would need to use to catch my monthly quota or the additional tackle I would lose fishing the shallower and much steeper small reefs near the beach.)

In the meeting we heard that the other proposal for protecting the Yelloweye was to cut all bottom fish limits by as much as 30%. The economic impact is easy on this one. If I catch and sell all of my Ling Cod each month, I earn \$1300/month X 7 months = \$9,100/year on Ling Cod alone. Every 1% cut in my Ling Cod quota equals \$13/month or \$91/year. A 30% cut of my yearly take will cost my small business \$390/month or about \$2730/year. With no salmon fishing this year, I had been counting on the money from Ling Cod to keep the business afloat. The loss of up to 30%?? An economic impact on my small business? Yes Sir!!

Thank You

Mark L. Roberts

Dear Chairman Hansen and members of the Council,

Thanks for the opportunity to comment on 2009-2010 groundfish regulations.

We seek fair and equitable allocation of impacts to overfished species: 50/50% split between rec and commercial sectors; 1/3 split between states.

Historical abundances and landings: there were always more yelloweye in California than in Oregon or Washington, according to the most recent stock assessment. Many allocation decisions have been made by the PFMC based on historical landings.

RFA supports a 20 fathom depth limit north of Pigeon Point in California to reduce impacts to canary and yelloweye, but CA Department of Fish & Game should consider opening deeper areas where interactions do not occur, instead of closing areas inshore, to spread out the effort.

Currently there is no allocation of rockfish in federal waters for California citizens, while recreational anglers in both OR and WA can fish federal waters for up to 12 months.

RFA members in California have consistently expressed an interest in more time on the water and would consider a lower bag limit on rockfish to achieve that.

We support a continuation of the shore-based angling and spearfishing exemptions to seasonal closures.

The proposed placement of Yelloweye Rockfish Conservation Areas in California would increase yelloweye impacts by shifting effort further away from ports. The economic impact to all ports in California north of Point Arena would be drastic. The fuel impacts to vessels would be staggering.

Council needs to consider "credit for areas closed" – over 90% of the yelloweye habitat is closed to fishing in the Rockfish Conservation Area. Perhaps the Science and Statistical Committee can analyze this huge rockfish reserve as a proxy for Annual Catch Limits or ACLs in directed groundfisheries on the West Coast.

Consider use of recompression devices as a way to improve survivability of released fish. Include a checkbox on CRFS sampling forms, to record whether or not anglers used these devices while fishing.

Sincerely
Kevin Mc Grath
P.O. Box 1
Redway, CA
95560

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The RFA supports the voluntary use of release devices on rockfish. We do not support regulations requiring them at this time.

Sincerely,

Tom Davies
P.O. Box 1164
Trinidad, CA 95570
(707) 677-3576

Dear Chairman Hansen and members of the Council,
I would like to add my email to the public comment for the groundfish Harvest Specifications for 2009-2010 Fishery scheduled in the June Council meeting:

First of all, I would like to comment on the allocation of over fished species such as the Yellow Eye rockfish. Since California is part of the three state recreational allocation with Oregon and Washington, it is only fair to have an equal split between the states. I am asking that you strongly consider an equal 1/3, 1/3, 1/3 split of the recreational allocation of the catch sharing options.

The next point is the proposed placement of Yellow eye Rockfish Conservation Areas in California. I would like to recommend that the Council consider that since our depth restrictions have moved the recreational fisherman inside to the 20 fathom line, this is inside the holding depths of the Yellow Eye. This would be about 90% of the yellow eye habitat is already closed to fishing. Why restrict any more area where the fisherman can fish. This is especially critical in Northern California as we have very few areas to where we can travel to enjoy our sport. Establishing more restricted fishing areas would severely impact our sport and the economy of the area.

Now with extremely high gas prices and a closed salmon season, our area is experiencing a large drop in people who would enjoy our coast and our fishery. More restrictions would only exacerbate the situation. According to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act that "Rebuilding plans must meet the mandate..." "to rebuild overfished stocks in as short a time as possible, while taking into account the status and biology of the overfished species, the socioeconomic needs of west coast fishing communities, and the interaction of the overfished stocks within the marine ecosystem." Please consider the "socioeconomic needs of west coast fishing communities."

Lastly we in Northern California have been promoting all winter that all anglers and charter boats carry recompression devices to improve survivability of released any fish. This year we are as a part of our equipment. This is not really an issue with most of us especially since we want to save our ability to fish our coast.

Thank you for your consideration in these matters.

Sincerely,

Bob Taylor
Eureka, CA.
email: bob@taysys.com

Don Hansen, Chair
Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101
Portland OR 97220

Dear Sir:

Re: 2009-2010 Recreational Groundfish Regulations

As a concerned angler and also one concerned about the ecology, I just ask you to please choose a reasonable course in your recommendations for the groundfish regulations--one that not only strives to conserve the resource but that also permits the angler a decent access to his passion. Too much regulation these days, regardless of the subject, seems to involve one-sided, meat cleaver, over reaction type solutions. I encourage you to strike a fair balance in this issue.

It is very important to us that we continue to be able to pursue the one thing that gives us joy in this difficult world -- fishing and being out with nature. Don't take that away. I know your choices are difficult, but please do not underestimate the importance of what fishing means to so many of us.

Carl Richards
2718 Allenton Ave
Hacienda Hts., CA 91745

Executive Director Don McIsaac,

I am respectfully requesting a more equal share of the west coast yellow-eye (YE) allotment for California. I am unaware if OR and WA meet their allotment each year, but being we get shut down early nearly every year, I suggest a change is needed. We have a large number of residence and with the addition of salmon closures there is a significant target species switch to rockfishing. Shorter seasons are going to put the final nail in the coffin for many fishing related businesses. I ask you to consider at least a 1/3 share of the allotment if not more. I would also urge a more current stock assessment. If we are catching so many I would suggest we may have a stock in better shape then previously believed. We have also had new depth restrictions in place this year, that will put off limits the majority of the yellow-eye population off our coast.

I thank you for your consideration,

Marc Schmidt
Eureka, CA

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

My wife and I live in the Humboldt Bay region and attended the May meeting for groundfish held by representatives of the Calif. Dept. of Fish and Game at Trinidad, CA. During the course of the meeting the concerns over yellow eye and canary rockfish were discussed in depth. The "take" concerns and where these two fish species are being caught were evaluated and discussed. It became very clear over the course of the meeting that while fish were being taken off Shelter Cove, Redding Rock and the north end of St. George's Reef. Trinidad, Cape Mendicino and the south end of St. Georges Reef were not areas of concern for take. The fishing community of both sport and commercial fisherman testified that in waters less than 200' they do not catch either of these two fish in our area. It would seem reasonable to target those areas of concern for these two species and not take a broad brush approach to closing whole coastlines and regions when these two species are only taken in few specied areas.

The DF&G representatives were clear that the PMFC does not consider or allow exclusions from their closure areas. We find that mystifying since Salmon closure areas and varying dates occur every year off the nothern california coast as compared to the southern areas. If this can be done for salmon, why not for groundfish? The economic damage created by total closures are devastating to our region. We rely heavily upon tourism and fishing to support our local economy. We consider a two month season for rockfish in the Humboldt Bay and Triniday region unnecessary and unreasonable. While we agree those imperiled species should be protected, to close an entire coastline is irresponsible and creates an economic burdon on our local economy. We ask that you examine your planned closure for this northern region and tailor closures where they are needed, and to allow longer seasons in those areas not affected. The scientific data should continue to be developed and boater educations is critical. Targeted management areas are certainly reasonable and would be supported by all those who fish offshore. We hope you will consider the impact on small communities and use available scientific data to produce the desired results without being overly burdensome.

Tom and Mary Marking
865 Stapp Road
McKinleyville, CA 95519

To: Don Hansen, Chair
Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101
Portland OR 97220
Fax: (503) 820-2299
Email: pfmc.comments@noaa.gov

Re: 2009-2010 Recreational Groundfish Regulations

Dear Chairman Hansen and members of the Council,

Thanks for the opportunity to comment on 2009-2010 groundfish regulations.

We seek fair and equitable allocation of impacts to overfished species: 50/50% split between rec and commercial sectors; 1/3 split between states.

Historical abundances and landings: there were always more yelloweye in California than in Oregon or Washington, according to the most recent stock assessment. Many allocation decisions have been made by the PFMC based on historical landings.

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Consider use of recompression devices as a way to improve survivability of released fish. Include a checkbox on CRFS sampling forms, to record whether or not anglers used these devices while fishing.

The RFA supports the voluntary use of release devices on rockfish. We do not support regulations requiring them at this time.

Sincerely,

Jan Zeiters
1867 William Ct.
McKinleyville Ca.

Why doesn't California get 1/3 of the allotment of yelloweye rockfish on the west coast. This has put a lot of people on the brink of starvation due to their inability to fish freely in their charter business. Please amend that rule and allow California to have a fair and balanced share of this fishery. The salmon season has already been devastating. Thank you

Cliff Hart
7074411906

I am curious why Oregon and Washington get 3/4's of the recreational yelloweye allocation. California apparently has a healthy yelloweye population, lots of anglers and lots of coastline. It seems that the only fair split between states would be 1/3 for each state. Please change the recreational allocation to a more equitable split. I also ask that a comprehensive stock assessment be performed on California yelloweye this year using nonlethal assessment methods such as submersibles. It is the opinion of many anglers in Northern California that there is a substantial yelloweye population that has not been properly assessed. Thank You, Tim Klassen Reel Steel Sportfishing. Eureka Ca

June 03, 2008

Dear Don McIsaac
PFMC Executive Director

Mr. McIsaac,
California needs a better split of the yellow eye rockfish between California, Oregon and Washington. California gets a small percentage of the allocation but has the most abundant population of yellow eye per recent stock assessment. There is a huge disparity in yellow-eye by-catch among the three west coast states. California seems to rank at the bottom and yet the fishing effort is higher. California should have the highest allocation.

Please take action to correct this disparity and place California where it should be with an equal share among the three states.

I am speaking for all 751 members of www.tunabite.com
Thank you
Dan Martin
CEO
www.tunabite.com

Hi John, I spoke with JoAnna Grebel of DFG today. I've been working with her to find a solution to my desire to have the 60 Fathom line coordinates off San Diego re-visited. She informed me that it will be presented to the council at the June meeting. I've put in countless hours communicating with her and others to get this right. The lines off San Diego are poorly drawn and in some cases cut off up to 1.7 miles of "legal" waters. I'm not asking for anything extra, just a realistic representation of the 60 fathom contour. The charts that have been submitted represent the actual boundaries. I have researched them in my own vessel and they have been confirmed by CA. DFG. Please consider this to be of the highest priority. Forcing me to fish shallow creates less economic opportunity and an unnecessary interaction with juvenile fish. Please submit this email as public comment.
Thanks John Law

To whom it may concern,

California needs a better split of the yelloweye rockfish between California, Oregon and Washington. California gets a small percentage of the allocation but has the most abundant population of yellow eye per recent stock assessment. Please negotiate a fair percentage for California.

I am very concerned with the current in-equitable allocation of recreational Yelloweye between the states, and ask that the basis for the allocation be re-examined in light of historical catches, data, and stock status.

Best regards,
Greg Griffis

F/V IRISH-ROSE - F/V CURRY - F/V FRIENDSHIP

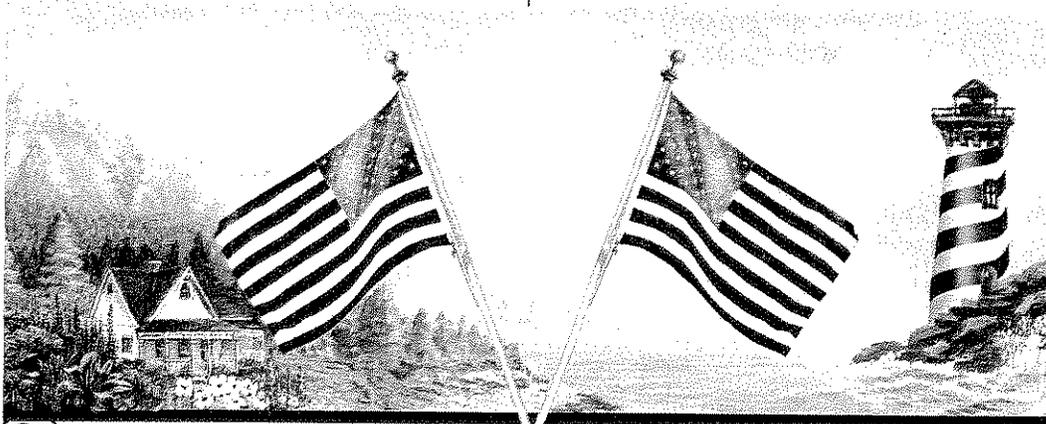


JOHN DE VORE:

HELLO - I AM MIKE ASHDOWN A COMMERCIAL FISHER IN PORT ORFORD OREGON. I OWN THREE F/V'S WITH NEARSHORE PERMITS. THERE ARE THREE FAMILIES HEAVILY DEPENDING ON THE PRODUCT (FISH) FROM THE NEARSHORE FISHERY - I'M HEARING THAT BECAUSE OF YELLOWEYE, THAT YOU MIGHT REDUCE QUOTA 35% AND MOVE THE NEARSHORE 30 FATH LINE INSHORE MORE - I'M ASKING YOU TO CONSIDER OUR FAMILIES GOING BROKE IF YOU DO THIS. I AM A LONG LINER WITH AN UNINDORSED "A" PERMIT & YOU CAN LOOK UP MY OBSERVER DATA ON F/V IRISH-ROSE - AND SEE I DON'T CATCH YELLOWEYE. IF YOU MOVED THE LINE INTO 25 FATH. I COULD LIVE WITH THAT. BECAUSE I DON'T GO OUT DEEPER BECAUSE OF CANARY'S & YELLOWEYE. ALSO I'VE BEEN THINKING THAT YOU FOLKS SHOULD CONSIDER NO LONG LINGING FOR NEARSHORE UNLESS YOU HAVE AN "A" FEDERAL LONGLINE PERMIT

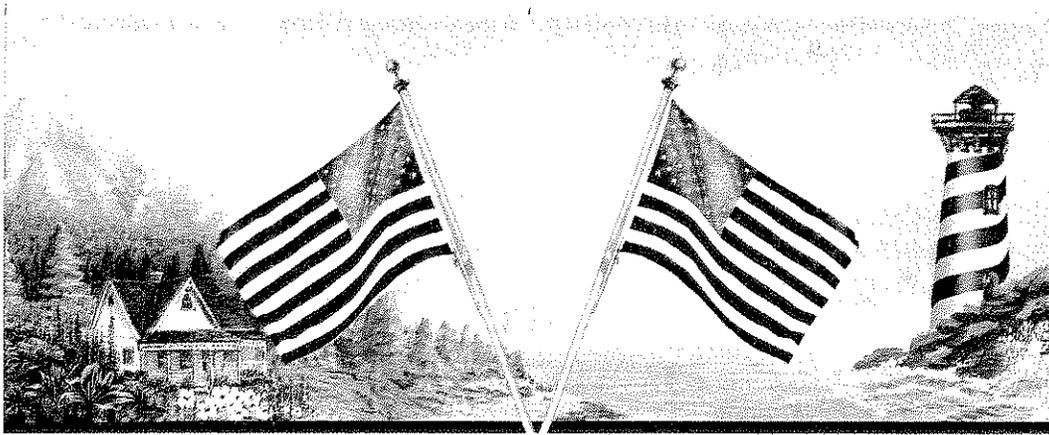


OUR



P2 My THINKING ON THIS IS NOT FOR PERSONAL GOALS AS TWO OF MY BOATS ARE OPEN ACCESS. AND MORE & MORE OPEN ACCESS BOATS ARE LONG LINING NEAR SHORE, I'M HEARING THAT THE CRESCENT CITY BOATS THAT ARE CATCHING CANARY & YELLOW EYE ARE LONG LINE OPEN ACCESS. I DON'T CATCH YE & C-, I KNOW THAT HERE IN SO ORE THERE ARE LOTS & LOTS OF COPPER & QUILLS IN 30 FATH. BUT I DON'T GO THERE BECAUSE I'M A PROFESSIONAL LONG LINER, & MOST OPEN ACCESS BOATS DON'T KNOW TO STAY INSIDE OF 25 FATH. THERE SHOULD ALSO BE A STAMP FOR "A" BOATS THAT QUALIFIED LIKE BLACK COD - 1984 - 1994 - THAT WOULD REDUCE EVEN FURTHER INTERACTIONS BETWEEN PROTECTED - BY QUALIFYING I MEAN ANY YEAR 84-94 AN "A" PERMIT SHOULD LAND AT LEAST 20000 LB'S IN ONE QUALIFYING YEAR - I BET THERE IS NOT MANY WHO QUALIFY -





③ AGAIN I AM NOT TRYING FOR GAIN, BUT TRYING TO REDUCE CANARY & Y-E. CATCH. I USED TO CATCH MANY TONS OF ROCK FISH AND I KNOW WHAT TO LOOK FOR, AND AS I PASS OVER MANY SPOTS ON MY WAY TO FISH BLACK COD I CAN SEE THE R.C.A. OFF OF PORT ORFORD IS LOADED WITH FISH. I'M HOPING YOU WILL (NOAA) START A TAGGING PROGRAM FOR Y.E. & CAN. YOUR OBSERVERS ARE ALREADY WEIGHING & MEASURING ANY BYCATCH (WHY NOT TAG THEM AT THE SAME TIME - WE ARE RELEASING OUR BYCATCH ALIVE, AND YOU ARE WASTING A CHANCE TO TAG - I HOPE YOU WILL NOT REDUCE OUR QUOTA'S OR MOVE THE LINE IN BEYOND 25 FATH'. IF YOU EVER WANT TO TALK ABOUT ALL OF THIS, I HAVE BEEN FISHING COMM. FOR 35 YRS NOW AND KNOW A LOT. I WOULD BE HAPPY TO TALK

PH#

2600494

THANK'S MIKE ASKOWAS



June 2, 2008

Pacific Fishery Management Council
Attn. John Devore
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101
Portland, OR 97220-1384

RECEIVED

JUN 02 2008

PFMC

Dear Council Members,

I want to make a few comments about the 2009-2010 near shore trawl fishery in the Cape Arago to Humbug Mountain area. The closure of this area in the 2007-2008 season has been a hardship on myself and 2 other small vessels that fish out of Charleston. This area is our most productive near shore area for Dover sole. The summertime catch rates for Dover in this area are much greater than they are North of Cape Arago. During the summer of 2007, myself and the other 2 small vessels never came close to catching our 2 month quotas of Dover inside of 75 fathoms.

I would urge the council to open up the Cape Arago to Humbug Mountain near shore area for the 2009-2010 seasons. I also would like to see the boundary line moved out to 100 fathoms for as much of the summer as possible. The catch rates per hour increase 3 or 4 times between 75 to 100 fathoms over what they are inside of 75 fathoms. Most of the time we are on a 7,500 pound plant trip limit for Dover during summer months. Being able to fish out to 100 fathoms lets us catch this limit in one day or less. Inside of 75 fathoms it usually takes 2 full days to catch the same amount. In today's high cost of fuel, this can make or break us. This also cuts down on by-catch and discards.

I have a 42' vessel (F/V Apache) that does not have the capability to safely fish offshore. The 3 boats that normally fish the near shore area on the south coast of Oregon, work from about April 15th to the end of October.

I wanted to comment on the selective flat fish trawl. This has been a great success in my opinion. It works extremely well for flat fish and seems to catch sablefish fairly well. In July and August when the whiting are thick in the near shore areas, we are able to fish with almost zero by-catch of whiting. In the days of the overhang nets, sometimes we could not deal with the by-catch of whiting. In 2005, I landed 120 pounds of Canary's and in 2006 I landed 200 pounds total for the whole summer. The selective flat fish trawl is a great tool. My fuel consumption decreased 25% when I began using this net.

Respectfully,

Tom Nowlin
F/V Apache
1570 Woodland
Coos Bay, OR 97420

Untitled

To: Don Hansen, Chair
Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101
Portland OR 97220
Fax: (503) 820-2299
Email: pfmc.comments@noaa.gov

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JUN 02 2008

Date: May 2, 2008

PFMC

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The RFA supports the voluntary use of release devices on rockfish. We do not support regulations requiring them at this time.

At the meeting in Trinidad on May 1st I circulated a petition to the folks who attended the meeting on an equal split of allotment for Yelloweye rockfish between states on the west coast

Sincerely
Kevin Mc Grath
P.O. Box 1
Redway, CA
95560

5/1/08

We ask that the PEMC raise
our yelloweye quota to equal
that of Oregon and Washington
Kevin McGrath PO Box 1 Redway CA 95560
Stephen Linton 1659 Short St McKinleyville, CA 95519

Dennis Mayo	McKinleyville, Ca. 95519
Donny Orr	Trinidad CA. 95570
Bruce Mills	Crescent City Ca 95531
Jane Barlow	Crescent City Ca 95531
Maurie Moser	Trinidad CA 95519
ROBERT STEPHEN	" " 95570
Randy Martinez	" Ca 95570
Irene Martinez	" " "
Gale Miller	McKinleyville CA 95519
Lin Nasson	Eureka Ca 95503
Haven R Luni	McKinleyville 95519
Randy Summers	122 NE 60th St McKinleyville 95519
Steve Jones	3741 DOWS PRAIRIE RD MCK. CA 95570
Mike Zamboni	1341 Bel Nor Rd McKinleyville
Kevin Mellegus	4475 central Ave McKinleyville ca 95519
MATT DALLAM	960 CRANZEL RD. TRINIDAD, CA 95570
Harrison Ibach	1736 A Ave. McKinleyville, CA 95519
Lois Robiette	3410 PARK ST Eureka Ca 95501-1548
AARON Lippa	1449 CENTRAL McKinleyville CA 95519
Brenda Summers	839 Liscom Hill Rd Arcata CA 95521
Micah Woolworth	4245 Dows Prairie Road McKinleyville CA 95570
Craig Goucher	1830 Pickett Rd. McKinleyville, Ca. 95519

Also could you please increase the
depth limit on Petrale sole to that
of California Pacific Halibut because
of ~~the~~ fact that they are caught
in the same areas.

Sincerely
Kevin B. McGrath
PO Box 1
Redway, CA
95560

F/V Timmy Boy
Denny Burke
9618 SE Birch St.
South Beach, Or. 97366

May 30, 2008

Pacific Fishery Management council
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101
Portland, Or. 97220

To council members & NMFS:

I want to express my concern over the 2009-2010 Sable fish OY. I am grateful for the raise, but am concerned about the distribution of so much fish to the south. The majority of fish are landed north of Monterey, Ca. yet under the preferred option; the northern fishermen receive only a 23.2% increase.

While south of conception the OY goes from 210 tons to 1371 tons an increase of over 5 times. To avoid effort shift or the danger of new fishers targeting a fish that is being harvested already, perhaps some of the 1161 tons going south of conception could be added to the north making the increase more equitable in both areas.

500% increase south and 23.2% increase north is wrong.

Thank you,



Denny Burke

The Washington Trollers request the following salmon/lingcod bycatch landing allowance is allowed to go forward for consideration in the 2009/2010 groundfish management regulations. First, a few points to consider:

The Salmon Trollers claim that this allowed bycatch will not lead to targeting of lingcod. Our best proof is the situation with halibut where a very small percentage of the salmon landings (I would guess that less than 1% of the total landings) by the fisherman include the maximum amount allowed of halibut. Halibut is more valuable than ling cod which would indicate less incentive to target lingcod if an individual is not targeting the more valuable halibut.

Similar to the previous point, the average salmon are in excess of \$70 per fish where a ling cod will likely be close to \$12 per fish. Currently, why would a person waste time pursuing a significantly lower value fish? From the WDFW analysis you will see that bulk of the landings of chinook salmon by the Trollers between 2005 and 2007 were less than 50 chinook per landing. This would mean at a 1 ling plus 1 ling to 15 chinook landing allowance, with the likely historic encounter of 1 ling to 7 chinook or 1 ling to 30 chinook, there would only be potentially 3 ling available to target. At the average price of \$1.24/pound for the ling and an average weight of 10 pounds, the three ling would potentially represent \$37.20. With fuel at \$4.40/gal., that would not likely cover the cost of the additional fuel required.

We know that the yelloweye are the groundfish of most concern. We also know that yelloweye are very sedentary around rocks as compared to canary and lingcod. Like the trawlers, the salmon trollers do not concentrate their effort exceptionally close to the rocks due to fear of catching rocks and losing gear (Currently, our lead cannon balls that trollers use cost over \$100 each.). This is also different than the recreational fishery as the salmon troller is constantly moving as compared to the recreational fishery where they will anchor or drift on rock piles. In addition to the above, there is additional protection for yelloweye rockfish that only applies to the salmon troll fleet. The closed areas include the mushroom closed area that covers several hundred miles off of Cape Flattery and another approximately 8 square mile area off of La Push WA. Both of these areas are know for high abundance of yelloweye rockfish.

There are observed salmon trolling trips on the WA coast that show incidental hooking of lingcod while trolling for salmon that often exceed one ling cod for every 10 salmon.

As a reminder, the Magnuson Act encourages reduction of bycatch whenever practical.

Having said the above, we propose the following landing allowance of lingcod with our salmon deliveries as a retention of the incidental encountered lingcod while salmon fishing:

One lingcod plus one lingcod for each 15 chinook salmon that are in possession up to a maximum 10 lingcod per delivery of salmon and not to exceed 400 lbs. per month.