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AUG 29 2008

PFMC



800 Exchange St., Suite 310
Astoria, Oregon 97103

August 28, 2008

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

RE: Development of an individual fishing quota system for the West Coast Trawl Groundfish Fishery

At their August 27, 2008 meeting, the Clatsop County Board of Commissioners unanimously approved a resolution and order supporting the Pacific Fisheries Management Council's development of an individual fishing quota system for the West Coast Trawl Groundfish Fishery and opposing allocation of harvesting shares to fish processing companies.

County Manager's Office

Phone (503) 325-1000
Fax (503) 325-8325

A copy of the resolution and order is attached.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Valerie Crafard".

Valerie Crafard
Staff Specialist – Clerk to the Board

Enc.

RECORDED

AUG 28 2008

IN THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR CLATSOP COUNTY, OREGON

Doc #2008080245

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE)
PACIFIC FISHERIES MANAGEMENT)
COUNCIL'S DEVELOPMENT OF AN)
INDIVIDUAL FISHING QUOTA)
SYSTEM FOR THE WEST COAST)
TRAWL GROUND FISH FISHERY)
AND OPPOSING ALLOCATION OF)
HARVESTING SHARES TO FISH)
PROCESSING COMPANIES)

RESOLUTION AND
ORDER

Whereas: The West Coast Trawl Fishery adds an important component to the State of Oregon's coastal economy, producing more than 4,000 jobs, and creating \$120 million in economic impacts, and;

Whereas: The West Coast Trawl Fishery adds an important component to the local economy of Clatsop County producing more than 800 jobs and creating more \$30 million in economic impacts, and;

Whereas: The West Coast Groundfish Fishery is the largest component of the West Coast Trawl Fishery, and the Columbia River is the home port of the largest number of trawl vessels of any area in Oregon, and;

Whereas: The Pacific Fishery Management Council is developing an Individual Quota Program to strengthen the West Coast Groundfish Trawl Fishery and increase the economic benefit to coastal economies by increasing the incentives to conserve the fishery resource and by increasing the amount of harvest of species of fish from healthy stocks while avoiding the capture of species of fish from unhealthy stocks, and;

Whereas: The number of fish processing companies along the West Coast has decreased to a level where a very few companies process the groundfish landed by the West Coast Groundfish Trawl Fishery, and;

Whereas: The only rationale to issue fish harvesting shares to processors that has been presented to the Pacific Fishery Management Council is to use these shares in an anti-competitive manner to prevent new processing companies from processing groundfish, and;

Whereas: No conservation benefit to the resource has been demonstrated by the allocation of harvesting shares to fish processing companies, and;

Whereas: A strong, healthy and stable fishing fleet is necessary to support healthy processing industries and realize the economic potential of the groundfish fishery, and;

Whereas: Allocating groundfish harvesting shares to processors weakens the fishing fleet and jeopardizes the ability of the West Coast Trawl Fishery to realize the maximum economic benefit possible, and;

Whereas: The motivation to conserve the fishery resources is weakened by allocating harvesting shares to processors and jeopardizes the conservation of the groundfish resource,

Therefore, be it resolved: Clatsop County supports the efforts of the Pacific Fishery Management Council to develop and implement an Individual Fishermen's Quota program for the West Coast Groundfish Trawl Fishery and opposes issuing harvesting shares to fish processing companies.

Dated this 27th day of August, 2008

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR CLATSOP COUNTY, OREGON


Patricia J. Roberts, Chairperson