



Agenda Item F-3-h  
Supplemental Public Comment 10  
November 2008

October 24, 2008

Mayor:  
CHUCK DELLA SALA

Councilmembers:  
LIBBY DOWNEY  
JEFF HAFERMAN  
NANCY SELFRIDGE  
FRANK SOLLECITO

City Manager:  
FRED MEURER

Mr. Donald K. Hansen, Chair  
Pacific Fishery Management Council  
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101  
Portland, OR 97220-1384

Re: Comments on Amendment 20: Trawl Rationalization

Dear Chairman Hansen:

The City of Monterey hereby submits comments to the Pacific Fishery Management Council on the topic "Rationalization of the Pacific Coast Ground Fish Limited Entry Trawl Fishery: Decision Document for the November 2008 Pacific Fishery Management Council Meeting".

The City of Monterey has a long and rich history of commercial fishing. The City has worked hard to maintain its fishing infrastructure and to support this industry which is so much in the fabric of life in Monterey. The City Council has acted on numerous occasions over a period of years in support of our fishermen and to try to preserve the cultural heritage and economic values which we associated with that community. Most recently, City representatives have testified before the Pacific Fishery Management Council on the topic of the potential for the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary to create additional closures in our area.

With regard to the Trawl Rationalization issue before you now, please be aware that our community is unclear about how the conversion of this fishery to an Individual Transferable Quota (ITQ) system will affect fishing activities in our area. Will it potentially consolidate fishing activities into fewer port areas? It would appear that there is some potential for this to occur in an ITQ program.

Because of this concern the City of Monterey requests that the Pacific Fishery Management Council consider some form of community allocation if fishermen within a region band together to form a community association or cooperative to manage quota and local allocation issues. If some quota was assigned to communities, there would be a safeguard against the potential for drastic consolidations of the fisheries into just a few larger port areas. With regard to the potential makeup of a fishery community association or cooperative, the City of Monterey is not intending that the City would be in charge of the allocation process; rather the association or cooperative should be made up of fishermen within the City or broader region who would decide among themselves as to the allocation. We understand that this would not be a simple task by itself.

In making this recommendation, we ask the Pacific Fishery Management Council to consider this need and to put thought into the specifics of such an allocation program.

A second issue of concern is the regard for the potential for further consolidations of the trawl fleet that could result in abandoned former trawl vessels in our harbor. The City of Monterey asks that the Pacific Fisheries Management Council also consider measures to avert or mitigate this potential consequence.

Thank you for considering the comments of the City of Monterey.

Sincerely,

Chuck Della Sala  
Mayor