

F.3.h
Agenda Item F.3.h
Supplemental Public Comment 13
November 2008

**Testimony before the Pacific Fisheries Management Council
concerning San Mateo County Harbor District
opposition to allocation of harvesting shares to fish processing
companies**

**November 6, 2008
At San Diego**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before the Council. My name is Peter Grenell. I am the General Manager of the San Mateo County Harbor District. We operate Pillar Point Harbor on Half Moon Bay. The San Mateo County coastside, the entire County, and the wider San Francisco Bay Area enjoy direct and indirect economic benefits of Pillar Point Harbor and depend on the fishing industry, which offers a variety of fish harvests, charters, bait, tackle, fresh seafood restaurants, fresh fish retail sales off the boats, and marine services to residents and visitors from around the world.

Our District is already on record supporting fishermen, most recently support for the Alliance of Communities for Sustainable Fisheries. I am before you today to deliver the resolution unanimously passed by our District on Oct. 15 of this year concerning how the IFQ program could affect the fishing community of Pillar Point Harbor, and therefore could affect the many economic, social and environmental benefits derived from our port.

Trawl fishermen vessels in the Pacific Groundfish fishery, along with those who use seine, hook and trap gear, contribute significantly to the economic health of fishing communities in our region and all along the Pacific Coast. It is in that spirit that I offer these comments to the Council on behalf of the District regarding proposed changes in the management of the Pacific Groundfish fishery, specifically in the implementation of IFQs.

This change may lead to greater economic efficiency in the trawl sector, but reduce the number of vessels and people employed in the fishery – and there are many unanticipated impacts on communities that follow. The question on the minds of our District leaders is the following: how best to address these unanticipated consequences, while still allowing for the efficiency improvements that IFQs can provide?

On Oct. 4, the first fishing boat that used Pillar Point Harbor back in the 1920s, the newly restored Monterey type vessel the F/V Irene, was launched at Pillar Point. Members of the fourth generation of the fishing family that first used the Irene presided at the ceremony, with participation of District personnel and several hundred people of the Harbor community. It is this community base upon which the continued welfare of California's coastal fisheries depends. As a body representing the economic well-being

of Pillar Point Harbor and its coastside community, the District wants to ensure that the IFQ program takes into account how best to stabilize communities that might be affected by shifts in quota ownership.

Therefore, we **oppose** the allocation of IFQs to seafood processors. There are potential anti-trust implications of allocating catch shares to fish processors. Additionally, allocation of quotas to fish processors will not guarantee a fishing community continuous access to trawl-caught groundfish or the jobs derived by that community from the harvest of groundfish. Furthermore, the District believes that the allocation of quota shares to fish processors threatens the economic viability of individual fishing vessel operators. This includes reducing the price paid to fishermen for their toil, and eliminating conservation incentives that might otherwise be created through limiting fishing access privileges.

We want to **support** actions the PFMC may be considering to enable the creation of community fishing associations, consistent with the re-authorized Magnuson-Stevens Act, to assure the ongoing protection of a fishing community's access to harvestable fish resources off their shores. We also support the Adaptive Management Program as the right tool to target quota to communities that may be vulnerable to losing vessels or landings, and understand that this program will allow fishermen continued access to quota to meet community-stability needs.

The District also urges development of a collaborative and cost-effective framework for monitoring quota requirements, and quota program design to facilitate gear switching to local trap and hook and line gear to tap this growing market and help sustain and enhance these fisheries.

The San Mateo County Harbor District reaffirms its support of its local fishing fleet, based in Pillar Point Harbor, by opposing processor quotas and at the same time, pledging to work with its local fish processors and others dependent on the catch of Pacific Groundfish to assure a constant supply of locally caught groundfish offloaded at Pillar Point for sale, processing and distribution.

Thank you again for this opportunity to present our views to you.



MEMORANDUM

San Mateo County Harbor District
400 Oyster Point Boulevard, Suite 300
South San Francisco, CA 94080
650/583-4400

TO: Pacific Fisheries Management Council

FROM: Theresa DellaSanta, Deputy Secretary

SUBJECT: CERTIFICATION OF COPY OF ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

This is to certify that the attached San Mateo County Harbor District document, Resolution 21-08 of the San Mateo County Harbor District to opposing allocation of harvesting shares to fish processing companies by the Pacific Fisheries Management Council is a true copy of the original document on file at the San Mateo County Harbor District Administrative Office, 400 Oyster Point Blvd., Suite 300, South San Francisco, California 94080.

Theresa DellaSanta
Deputy Secretary

October 16, 2008

Date

Resolution Number 21-08
of the San Mateo County Harbor District
Opposing allocation of harvesting
shares to fish processing companies by the Pacific
Fisheries Management Council

WHEREAS, The San Mateo County coastside, the entire County, and the wider San Francisco Bay Area enjoys direct and indirect economic benefits of Pillar Point Harbor and is dependent on the fishing industry, which offers a variety of fish harvests, charters, bait, tackle, fresh seafood restaurants, fresh fish off the boats and marine services to residents and visitors from around the world; and

WHEREAS, The San Mateo County Harbor District is already on record supporting fishermen most recently the Alliance of Communities for Sustainable Fisheries; and

WHEREAS, Trawl fishing vessels in the Pacific Groundfish fishery, along with seine, hook and trap vessels in that fishery, contribute significantly to the economic health of fishing communities along the Pacific Coast, helping to maintain vital fishery infrastructure, contributing to the diversity of fish and shellfish offloaded and often processed in coastal fishing ports, including Pillar Point Harbor, and the groundfish fishery supports over 1,000 jobs and currently contributes approximately \$30 million annually to California's economy; and

WHEREAS, The Pacific Fishery Management Council is considering changes in the way the Pacific Groundfish fishery is managed, including the allocation of the catch to trawl vessels through a system of individual transferable quotas, which may lead to greater economic efficiency in the trawl sector of the groundfish fleet, but reduce the number of vessels and people employed in the fishery; and

WHEREAS, The Pacific Fishery Management Council is considering, as part of the change, an individual quota system that may include catch quotas that could be purchased by non-fishermen, including processors, as well as issue quotas directly to fish processors which, in either the case of harvest quotas being held by non-fishermen or processor quotas, will likely lead to fishermen losing control of their fishing, including their right to choose who to sell their catch and the price they ask for the fish effectively rendering them "seafaring sharecroppers;" and

WHEREAS, In addition to the potential anti-trust implications of allocating catch shares to fish processors and others not involved directly in the harvest of fish at sea, the allocation of quota to fish processors will not guarantee a fishing community continuous access to trawl-caught groundfish or the jobs derived by that community from the harvest of groundfish; and

WHEREAS, The reauthorization of the federal Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act now allows for the creation of regional fishing associations to assure the ongoing protection of a fishing communities' access to harvestable fish resources off their shores thereby eliminating any need for fish processors to own or control quota shares of any kind in a fishery; and

WHEREAS, The allocation of quota shares to fish processors threatens the economic viability of individual fishing vessel operators including reducing the price paid to fishermen for their toil, eliminates conservation incentives that might otherwise be created through limited fishing access privileges, and may make fishing even more dangerous;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, The San Mateo County Harbor District reaffirms its support of its local fishing fleet, based in Pillar Point Harbor, by opposing processor quotas or processor ownership of fish harvest quotas and, at the same time, pledging to work with its local fish processors and others dependent on the catch of Pacific Groundfish to assure a constant supply of locally caught groundfish offloaded at Pillar Point for sale, processing and distribution;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The San Mateo County Harbor District transmit to the Pacific Fisheries Management Council and the National Marine Fisheries Service, within the Department of Commerce, the request that processor quota or processor ownership of harvest quotas be prohibited and, instead, the Council and the Fisheries Service permit the creation of regional fishing associations and utilize an Adaptive Management Program to protect local fishermen, local fish processors and others in the community dependent on the fish stocks harvested off our shores.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, San Mateo County Harbor District urges (a) development of a collaborative and cost-effective framework for monitoring quota requirements, and (b) quota program design to enable and facilitate gear switching to local trap and hook and line gear to tap this growing market and further help sustain and enhance these fisheries.

Adopted this fifteenth day of October, 2008 at the regular meeting of the Board of Harbor Commissioners by a vote as follows:

For: Tucker, Parravano, Padreddi, Lundie

Against:

Abstaining:

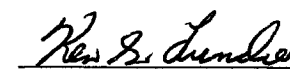
Absent: Campbell

Attested



Theresa DellaSanta
Deputy Secretary

BOARD OF HARBOR COMMISSIONERS



Ken Lundie
President