



Port Orford Ocean Resource Team

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June 3, 2009

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

Dear Chairman Hansen:

The Port Orford Ocean Resource Team appreciates the modest increase in daily trip limits for blackcod for the fixed gear LE fleet, yet we do not feel that we will attain the OY allocation in 2009. We would like to request the Council review in-season catch data and consider increasing the amount again. We recently became aware of the amount of DTL LE harvest being left on the table and the following information provided in the federal register characterizes our dilemma:

Table 1. Blackcod daily trip limit allocation and actual harvest.

Year	Allocation	Harvested	Percent not Utilized
2006	356 mt	106 mt	70%
2007	276 mt	116 mt	58%
2008	276 mt	150 mt	46%

We are aware that bycatch of yelloweye rockfish is of major concern yet we do not have fine scale detail observer data summaries to judge impacts near Port Orford. Based on informal discussions with observers and fishermen, we feel that the bycatch rates of overfished species including yelloweye rockfish to be very low in our area. We would like the Council to consider increasing the size of the LE fixed gear sablefish (daily) trip limit during its annual specifications process so as to allow more of the OY to be taken, especially in areas where bycatch rates of overfished species are low. Thank you!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Leesa Cobb".

Leesa Cobb
Executive Director
Port Orford Ocean Resource Team