

July 30, 2000

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SEAL

Dear Sirs

I have been a commercial fisherman for 37 yrs, the majority of this time I have been a bottom trawler fishing from Morro Bay to Pt Conception.

I know this area and what inhabits it better than any person alive. I believe our fish stocks are healthy. I catch as much fish as I have in the past, the only difference is I am forced to discard as much product as I deliver. (your inability to properly manage our resources)

This area is approx 40 mi by 55 mi. At present there are only two deep water bottom trawlers working this area (F/V point Loma & F/V Jonathan)

This is not overfishing.

If you do not have local knowledge your odds on catching fish in this area is very poor.

I would like to prove my point
by placing an observer on the Jonathan
you could let me keep and sell what
fish I catch in lieu of payment for survey.
I also believe that if you overcatch one
month it should be applied to next
months quota, instead of being dumped.
This would keep you from catching and
discarding over and over again.

F/V Jonathan

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