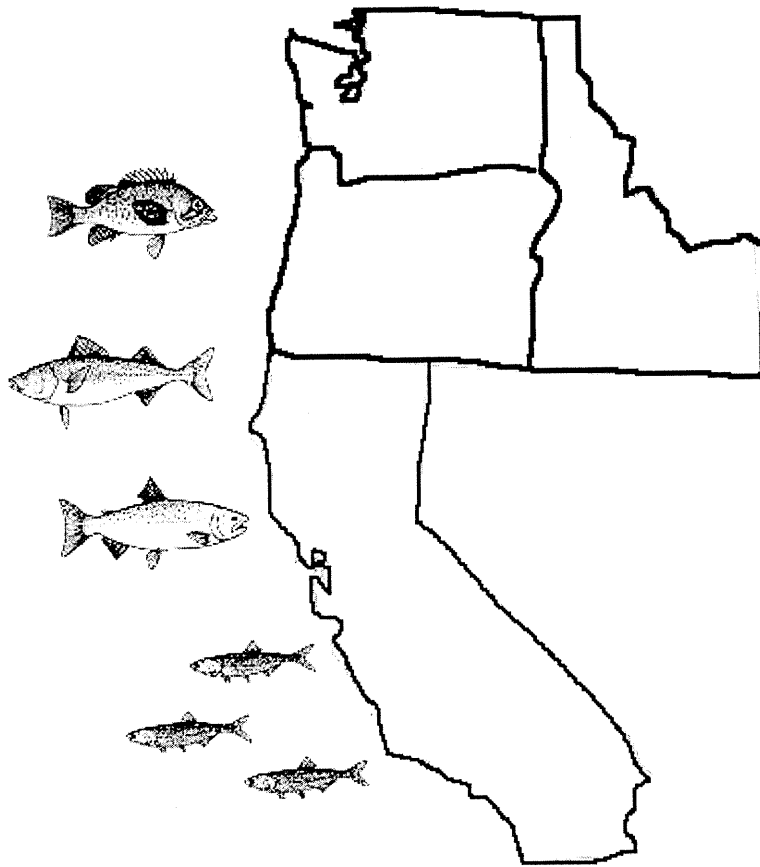


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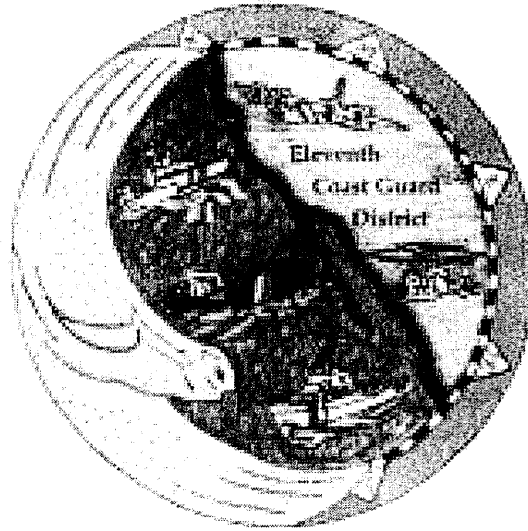
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Klamath Fishery Management Council

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Fisheries Enforcement Summary Calendar Year 2000

**Prepared by the Eleventh Coast Guard District
For the Pacific Fishery Management Council Meeting
March, 2001**

ELEVENTH COAST GUARD DISTRICT FISHERIES ENFORCEMENT SUMMARY
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Area Of Responsibility (AOR):

The AOR for the Eleventh Coast Guard District (D11) includes the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone and adjacent high seas areas off the coast of California.

Resources:

D11 utilizes the following resources to patrol waters of the California Coastline.

Cutters:

USCGC TYBEE	110' Island Class Patrol Boat	San Diego, CA
USCGC LONG ISLAND	110' Island Class Patrol Boat	San Diego, CA
USCGC EDISTO	110' Island Class Patrol Boat	San Diego, CA
USCGC DORADO	87' Coastal Class Patrol Boat	Crescent City, CA
USCGC BARRACUDA	87' Coastal Class Patrol Boat	Eureka, CA
USCGC HAWKSBILL	87' Coastal Class Patrol Boat	Monterey, CA
USCGC BLACKFIN	87' Coastal Class Patrol Boat	Santa Barbara, CA
USCGC BLACKTIP	87' Coastal Class Patrol Boat	Oxnard, CA
USCGC POINT CHICO	82' Point Class Patrol Boat	Bodega Bay, CA
USCGC POINT BROWER	82' Point Class Patrol Boat	San Francisco, CA
USCGC POINT BRIDGE	82' Point Class Patrol Boat	Marina Del Rey, CA
USCGC POINT STUART	82' Point Class Patrol Boat	Newport Beach, CA

Small Boat Stations:

USCG Station Humboldt Bay	Motor Lifeboats	Samoa, CA
USCG Station Noyo River	Motor Lifeboats	Fort Bragg, CA
USCG Station Bodega Bay	Motor Lifeboats	Bodega Bay, CA
USCG Station Golden Gate	Utility Boats	Sausalito, CA
USCG Station San Francisco	Utility Boats	San Francisco, CA
USCG Station Monterey	Motor Lifeboats	Monterey, CA
USCG Station Morro Bay	Motor Lifeboats	Morro Bay, CA
USCG Station Channel Islands Harbor	Motor Lifeboats	Oxnard, CA
USCG Station Los Angeles/Long Beach	Utility Boats	San Pedro, CA
USCG Station San Diego	Utility Boats	San Diego, CA

Air Stations:

Air Station Humboldt Bay	HH65 Helicopters	Humboldt Bay, CA
Air Station Sacramento	HC130 Fixed Wing Aircraft	Sacramento, CA
Air Station San Francisco	HH65 Helicopters	San Francisco, CA
Air Station Los Angeles	HH65 Helicopters	Los Angeles, CA
Air Station San Diego	HH60 Helicopters	San Diego, CA

1st Quarter
(January 1st – March 31st, 2000)

Open Fisheries:

- Federal Groundfish
- Federal Commercial Squid
- State Crab, Pink Shrimp, Spot Prawn, Sea Urchin and Lobster

Synopsis:

- The following were D11's enforcement concerns and priorities for the quarter:
 - General groundfish
 - Prohibited species retention (salmon, halibut)
 - Trip limits
 - Gear restrictions
 - Federal recreational fisheries (groundfish)
 - State Fisheries Enforcement
 - Crab season - Fishing vessel safety and compliance / Prevent gear conflict
 - Lobster season - Undersize lobster and illegal gear
 - Cordell Banks National Marine Sanctuary
 - Gulf of Farallones National Marine Sanctuary
 - Monterey National Marine Sanctuary
 - Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary

2nd Quarter
(April 1st – June 30th, 2000)

Open Fisheries:

- Federal Groundfish
- Federal Commercial & Recreational Salmon
- Federal Commercial Squid
- State Pink Shrimp, Spot Prawn, and Sea Urchin

Synopsis:

- The following were D11's enforcement concerns and priorities for the quarter:
 - Salmon
 - Authorized to fish
 - Authorized area
 - Authorized species
 - Gear Restrictions
 - General groundfish
 - Prohibited species retention (salmon, halibut)
 - Trip limits
 - Gear restrictions
 - State Fisheries Enforcement
 - Cordell Banks National Marine Sanctuary
 - Gulf of Farallones National Marine Sanctuary
 - Monterey National Marine Sanctuary
 - Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary

3rd Quarter
(July 1st – September 30th, 2000)

Open Fisheries:

- Federal Commercial & Recreational Salmon
- Federal Groundfish
- Federal Fixed Gear Sablefish
- Federal Commercial Squid
- State Pink Shrimp, Spot Prawn and Sea Urchin

Synopsis:

- The following were D11's enforcement concerns and priorities for the quarter:
 - Salmon
 - Authorized to fish
 - Authorized area
 - Authorized species
 - Gear Restrictions
 - Fixed gear sablefish
 - Pre-season closure
 - LEP Endorsements/Tier Limits
 - Post-season closure
 - General groundfish
 - Prohibited species retention (salmon, halibut)
 - Trip limits
 - Gear restrictions
 - Cordell Banks National Marine Sanctuary
 - Gulf of Farallones National Marine Sanctuary
 - Monterey National Marine Sanctuary
 - Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary

D11 Coast Guard units conducted Operation Water Watch, a multi-agency operation with NMFS, CA Fish and Game, US Department of Fish and Wildlife, San Diego Harbor Police, San Diego Police Dept Mission Bay, US Border Patrol and Customs Service in San Diego, during August. These operations were focused on vessels departing Mexican waters into U.S. waters. Although no vessels or arrests were made, over 30 warnings and 16 citations for fish size/permit violations were issued.

4th Quarter
(October 1st – December 31st, 2000)

Open Fisheries:

- Federal Commercial & Recreational Salmon
- Federal Groundfish
- Federal Commercial Squid
- State Crab, Herring, Pink Shrimp, State Prawn, Sea Urchin and Lobster
- State Shark Drift Gillnetting

Synopsis:

- The following were D11's enforcement concerns and priorities for the quarter:
 - General groundfish
 - Prohibited species retention (salmon, halibut)
 - Trip limits
 - Gear restrictions
 - Commercial Salmon
 - Authorized to fish
 - Authorized area
 - Authorized species
 - Gear restrictions
 - Commercial Shark Drift Gillnetting
 - Marine mammal Pingers
 - State Fisheries Enforcement
 - Crab season - Fishing vessel safety and compliance / Prevent gear conflict
 - Lobster season - Undersize lobster and illegal gear
 - Cordell Banks National Marine Sanctuary
 - Gulf of Farallones National Marine Sanctuary
 - Monterey National Marine Sanctuary
 - Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary

2000
D11 Fisheries Law Enforcement Resource Hours

	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	2000 Total
Patrol Boat (82', 87', and 110')	5310	2467	2208	2486	12471
Aircraft (Helicopter & Fixed Wing)	169	177	136	250	732

2000
D11 Fisheries Boarding

	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	2000 Total
Fishing Vessel Boardings	83	68	59	59	269

2000
D11 Detected Fisheries Violations

	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	2000 Total
Federal Fisheries Violations	0	3	1	0	4
State Fisheries Violations	2	9	1	0	12
Total Fisheries Violations	2	12	2	0	16

D11 2000 Violation Summary

	1 st Qtr	2 nd Qtr	3 rd Qtr	4 th Qtr	2000Total
Federal					
Undersize net mesh	0	1	0	0	1
Excessive chaffing gear	0	0	0	0	0
Prohibited / undersized catch	0	2	1	0	3
Vessel markings (FIN)	0	0	0	0	0
No IPHC Permit (FIN)	0	0	0	0	0
No LEP (FIN)	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Total	0	3	1	0	4
State					
No Commercial License	1	9	0	0	10
No Rec. License	0	0	0	0	0
Prohibited Species	1	0	1	0	2
Undersize Rec. Catch	0	0	0	0	0
Unmarked Comm. Gear	0	0	0	0	0
Over Rec. Catch Limit	0	0	0	0	0
Rec fishing w/ over one rod	0	0	0	0	0
State Total	2	9	1	0	12
Overall Totals	2	12	2	0	16

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4704

January 22, 2001

FEB 13 2001

Mr. Jim Lone
Chairman
Pacific Fishery Management Council
2130 Southwest 5th Avenue, Ste 224
Portland, Oregon 97201-4934

Dear Mr. Lone:

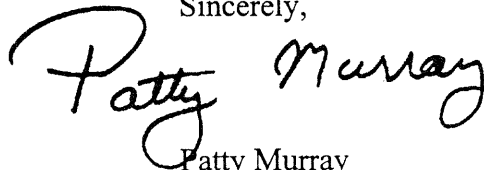
Knowing of your interest in individual fishing quotas (IFQs), I wanted to contact you to update you on the status of this innovative tool for managing fisheries.

As a U.S. Senator, I have consistently supported IFQs as one possible mechanism available to the eight regional fisheries management councils. This approach can improve safety for fishermen and conservation of the resource. In addition, IFQs can provide compensation to fishermen who want to retire from overcapitalized fisheries. I believe councils should have the freedom to implement IFQs when they determine this approach will improve fisheries management.

The moratorium on fishing quotas expired on September 30, 2000. However, the final fiscal year 2001 omnibus appropriations bill included an extension of the moratorium for an additional two years. I am opposed to this extension for reasons outlined in my statement in the Congressional Record, which I have included for your information. At the same time, I am pleased the omnibus bill directs the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council to begin evaluating quota programs for Gulf of Alaska groundfish and for Bering Sea/Aleutian Island crab. I am also glad the language includes an exception to the moratorium for fixed gear sablefish along the West Coast.

As we begin the work of the 107th Congress, I hope we will make progress in reauthorizing the Magnuson Stevens Fisheries Conservation and Management Act as quickly as possible without compromising the quality of our debate on these complex issues. Many of my colleagues believe IFQs should be addressed within the context of this statute. Thank you for your input on this important issue, and please feel free to keep in touch.

Sincerely,



Patty Murray
United States Senator

Mr. BINGAMAN. Regardless of the final outcome of the Presidential election, it is my hope that both sides of the aisle will be able to come together next year on a strategy for the continued technological and economic competitiveness of the United States. I hope that support for the work funded by the Office of Science will be the cornerstone of that strategy.

EXHIBIT 1

UNITED STATES SENATE,
Washington, DC.

The PRESIDENT,
The White House,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: Thank you for joining us in providing strong support for the Department of Energy's Office of Science in this year's appropriation process. Together we have made great progress in advancing recognition of these critical scientific programs. Yet there remains much more that can be accomplished. Continued growth for these programs on par with that proposed for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and National Science Foundation (NSF) is vital to continued advances in the fields DOE supports and to the training of future scientists and engineers to continue the tremendous advances that America brings to basic science and to the marketplace.

You are aware that the Department of Energy (DOE) is the leading source of federal support for the physical sciences in the nation. In the life sciences, the DOE initiated the Human Genome Program and co-manages this enormously important and promising effort with the National Institutes of Health. It also plays a leading role in supporting other biological sciences, environmental sciences, physics, chemistry, materials science, computer science, mathematics, and engineering. As a consequence, the DOE is responsible for a significant portion of federal R&D funding for scientists and students at our colleges and universities.

One of the primary responsibilities of DOE's Office of Science is to support large-scale specialized user facilities and large teams of scientists focused on national scientific priorities. This makes the Office of Science unique among, and complementary to, the scientific programs of other federal science agencies, including NIH and NSF. Each year over 15,000 sponsored scientists and students from academe, industry, and government—many funded by agencies other than the DOE—conduct cutting edge experiments at the Department's research facilities. DOE's investments in major facilities, smaller-scale user facilities, and in university-based laboratories not only sets it apart from other federal science agencies, but helps ensure that the nation maintains its world leadership across a broad range of scientific disciplines.

Economic experts maintain that today's unprecedented economic growth would not have been realized but for the substantial research investments by the public and private sectors over the past several decades. To maintain the tremendous advances that America brings to basic scientific research and into the marketplace, we need to continue to provide strong support for basic research across the scientific disciplines. Sound science policy also demands a balance between support of individual investigator driven science—such as that conducted by the NIH and NSF—and the maintenance and operation of major facilities, smaller specialized facilities, university based research facilities, and scientific teams such as those supported by DOE's Office of Science.

The appropriation of \$3.19 billion for FY 2001 is only a start at addressing these chal-

lenges. Annual increases similar to NIH and NSF are needed and merited by the important and unique work being conducted by the DOE Office of Science. They would also build on the spirit of the Senate's passage of the Federal Research Investment Act (S. 296) which calls for doubling investment in civilian research and development efforts.

Support for increases in funding for the DOE Office of Science is critical if we are to attract and retain the best minds, support the construction and operation of modern scientific facilities, and continue to capitalize on the scientific vision that has been the trademark of the Office of Science for so many years. The budget request for FY 2002 is the logical place to continue this effort. We trust you agree and look forward to strengthening our scientific and technological capabilities in FY 2002 and beyond.

Sincerely,

Jeff Bingaman, Blanche L. Lincoln, Ron Wyden, Carl Levin, John F. Kerry, Frank H. Murkowski, Mike DeWine, Patrick Leahy, Ted Kennedy, Slade Gorton, Evan Bayh, Daniel K. Akaka, Paul Sarbanes, Herb Kohl, Patty Murray, John Edwards, Frank R. Lautenberg, John Breaux, Diane Feinstein, Barbara Boxer, Bill Frist, Fred Thompson.

INDIVIDUAL FISHING QUOTAS

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, one of the most important issues we consider here in the U.S. Senate is how to balance our economic needs with our responsibility to conserve our natural resources.

I believe we can strike the right balance. With that hope, I'd like to talk about America's fisheries. In the Pacific Northwest, fishing is more than just a way of life. It is an important part of our economy and contributes to our region's culture.

Unfortunately, that way of life is becoming more difficult. Many fishing families are struggling because some fish stocks are at very low levels. For example, the West Coast salmon and groundfish and the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands crab fisheries have declined dramatically in recent years. Washington's fishing families contribute to our economy and feed consumers both here and abroad, but too often they work within a system that threatens their safety and their livelihood. I've met with harvesters and processors from my region, and I've visited small towns in Washington state that depend on fisheries. The problems they face aren't limited to Washington state. They can also be seen in Alaska and other states.

In an effort to recover decreasing numbers of fish in our waters, fisheries managers have developed complex management systems to limit fishing. In some cases, our current policies encourage fishers to catch as many fish as possible over a limited period of time. This creates a dangerous and inefficient "race for fish", which requires fishermen to venture out in bad weather. In fact, one of the most dangerous occupations for young people today is to work in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Island crab fishery. The "race for fish" is one way to manage fisheries in which

too many fishermen are competing for too few fish. However, there are alternatives to this management approach.

I'm proud that there is a growing interest in an innovative management tool called individual fishing quotas. This creative approach uses the marketplace to encourage a safer, more productive, and more sustainable fishing industry. In some cases, it would be a significant improvement over the status quo.

Individual fishing quotas or IFQs would bring some regularity to what are currently short-lived, intense fishing seasons. Under this system, each participant in a fishery would be allocated a percentage of that season's total fish catch. Because they are guaranteed a certain amount of fish, fishermen wouldn't have to "race for fish." They could stretch their fishing out over longer, more balanced fishing seasons.

I believe that individual fishing quotas can help fisherman, fisheries, conservation, and consumers. IFQs can help fishing families because boats won't need to go out in dangerous weather. In addition, because of the slower pace, fishermen would be less likely to lose fishing gear, a common problem in some fisheries. This new system can help fisheries because fishermen will be able to sell or lease quota. That means there will be fewer boats, which can mean cleaner, more efficient fisheries.

In addition, IFQs can improve conservation. In some cases when the fishery slows down, fishermen take better care of their catch and are more careful with bycatch. Let's look at just one example of how the speed of the current system hurts conservation. Currently, some North Pacific crabs that are too small to be caught legally end up trapped in crab pots. Under the race for fish, these pots are harvested so quickly that undersized crabs don't have time to escape. Under a slower fishery, those small crabs would have time to crawl out of the crab pots and grow to maturity, thereby helping to sustain the fishery into the future.

For consumers, IFQs mean they can enjoy fresh fish later in the seasons. For example, fresh halibut is now available more often as a result of a fish quota program put in place to manage halibut harvesting. Clearly, individual fishing quotas can be an effective management tool and can solve a lot of the problems facing fisheries today.

I'm pleased that many of my colleagues have expressed interest in IFQs. In fact, a number of members would like to see a national policy on IFQs developed. Since 1996, I've supported fish quotas and a national policy, and I reiterate my support again today.

But in the meantime, there are important steps we can take. When Congress reauthorized the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act in 1996, Congress placed a

four-year moratorium on new individual fishing quota programs. The moratorium on new quota programs expired on September 30, 2000. Now that this ban has expired, we should allow fishery management councils to develop additional fish quota programs. Councils should have the freedom to develop and implement these programs. I am not advocating that Councils be required to implement them, because individual fishing quota programs must be developed on a fishery-by-fishery basis. I do think, however, that individual quota programs should be available as one of the many management tools Councils may draw upon. I must add that all eight Councils have asked for this freedom and have asked for Congress to lift the moratorium.

However, I know that some members want to extend the moratorium. They don't want to allow some fisheries to go ahead with IFQs until there is a national policy in place. I understand and appreciate this perspective. I also recognize members of the environmental community would be more comfortable with such programs if a national policy were already in place. As I said, I support a national policy on these programs, and I look forward to working with my colleagues next year to develop one.

However, I would like to point out that all fishery management plans, including those that rely on quota programs, are required to meet the national standards already in the Act. Let me offer a few examples of these standards. Any fish quota program would have to meet National Standard 4, which prohibits conservation and management measures from discriminating between residents of different states. This standard also mandates that fishing privileges be allocated fairly and equitably, that they are calculated to promote conservation, and that they are carried out so that no entity shall have an excessive share. Any fish quota program would also have to meet National Standard 8, which requires such measures to take into account the importance of fishery resources to fishing communities. They would also have to meet National Standard 9, which requires measures to minimize bycatch, and National Standard 10, which addresses safety.

In addition, the Act requires all individual fishing quota programs approved on or after October 1, 2000, to meet several additional criteria. For example, these programs must be subject to review based on any future national policy and such revision may require reallocation of quota. These programs must also be effectively managed and enforced, which may require reliance on observers and/or cost-recovery fees. In addition, these criteria address the most contentious aspect of individual quota programs: the initial allocation of quota. The Act requires programs to ensure a fair initial allocation of quota, to prevent excessive control

over quota, and to include a mechanism for entry-level fishermen, small vessel owners and crew members to access quota. I think all of these examples illustrate that some elements integral to a national policy on individual fishing quota programs are already included in the Act. I believe we are much closer to having a national policy in place than some people may believe.

Unfortunately, it appears likely that the moratorium will be extended. Therefore, I ask my colleagues to consider several caveats to this extension. First, I ask that the moratorium be extended for only 8 months. This will take the moratorium off the appropriations cycle. Placing the moratorium on the yearly appropriations cycle creates a precedent that is easy to repeat every year. Taking the moratorium off the appropriations cycle will increase the urgency for Congress to develop a national policy within the months ahead.

Second, I ask for an exception to the moratorium for fixed-gear sablefish along the West Coast. This fishery is ready for fishermen to be allowed to consolidate permits, which is technically considered an IFQ. In fact, the fishery has been ready to do so since 1994. We should not make these fishermen wait any longer. They deserve to be freed from a 9-day race for fish, and fishermen who want to get out of the fishery should be compensated for their investments. I ask for your support for this exception.

Third, I support asking NMFS to gather input from the eight regional Councils on a national policy for individual fishing quotas. It is appropriate and important for Congress to have this input before we finalize a national policy on quota programs.

Most important, however, I ask for the commitment of my colleagues to deal with this issue next year, during the first session of the 107th Congress. It is not fair to punish those few fisheries that are ready to move forward with quota programs just because other fisheries are not. We have already had four years to resolve these issues, to no avail. If my colleagues believe this issue must be addressed within the broader context of Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act reauthorization, I understand and I hope they will consider this Senator ready and willing to move forward with that challenge. I support Senator SNOWE's and Senator KERRY's efforts to hold more hearings on reauthorization, and I offer to help them in any way I can to ensure it happens.

Let's commit ourselves to have a productive, comprehensive dialogue on a national policy. Let's commit to reaching a consensus that will allow our Councils and fisheries to pursue this innovative, effective solution that can work for fishing families, fisheries, conservation and consumers.

RELIEF NEEDED FROM RISING PRESCRIPTION DRUG PRICES

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today to review where we stand, near the conclusion of the 106th Congress, on the subject of prescription drugs. Few issues have caught the public's attention more than this one, and few are more deserving of our attention.

We live at a time when we can clearly discern remarkable benefits from all manner of drugs. It is nothing short of miraculous when we consider the relative ease and success of today's treatment of common disorders, as compared with that of only two or three generations ago.

When World War II began, for example, penicillin and other similar antibiotics were known only to a small number of scientists. At the conclusion of the War in 1945, penicillin was widely available, used not only for battle wounds but for infectious diseases in the general public as well. Patients with high blood pressure or high cholesterol levels were, at best, only partially and inadequately treated in the 1940's and 1950's. Now success is the rule, rather than the exception. Calvin Coolidge's son died in 1924 as a result of a blister and a skin infection after playing tennis at the White House. An infection like that today would be treated as simple, outpatient therapy.

While these examples are noteworthy and provide us with a valuable perspective of times gone by, the hard, cold fact is that many of these modern miracles are still out of the reach of too many American citizens. They simply cannot afford the drugs that might so often prove lifesaving, because of either no insurance or lack of drug coverage within their insurance.

Why is this? Because, astronomical prices have come hand-in-hand with the great improvements in drug therapy. Spending for prescription drugs in the United States doubled between 1990 and 1998. In each of the five years between 1993 and 1998, prescription drug spending increased by an average of 12.4 percent. In 1999, the increase was 19 percent. We could go into all the reasons, but the fact remains that prescription drug prices are high and getting higher.

Many millions of Americans, both Medicare age and younger have either inadequate or no prescription drug insurance at all. A by-product of no coverage is that these patients wind up paying the highest rates of anyone—an average of 15 percent more than those with insurance. Many of these uninsureds, including the seniors often called "The Greatest Generation" are not filling prescriptions because of their cost—choosing between food and medicine. Or they split pills in half to make them go farther. This is shameful. These are very real every day problems that beg for help.

So, given the fact of these well documented problems, what is the track record of this Congress in helping the citizens in my home state of South Dakota and the citizens of the United

March 2001

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Pacific Marine Conservation Council

"Dedicated to the health and diversity of our marine life and habitat"

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Phil Kline
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Peter Huhtala
Campaign Coordinator

Kelley Oletzke
Office Manager

February 2, 2001

Jim Lone, Chairman
Pacific Fishery Management Council
2130 SW Fifth Avenue, Suite 224
Portland, Oregon 97201

Dear Chairman Lone,

Pacific Marine Conservation Council (PMCC) has recently contacted every member of the Washington, Oregon and California congressional delegations to make specific recommendations for discretionary spending decisions during the 107th Congress.

I'm enclosing a copy of one of the letters sent to senators and representatives outlining our appropriations requests. Each member of the delegations was also provided with a copy of testimony that PMCC Executive Director Bob Eaton submitted for a field hearing of the Ocean and Fisheries Subcommittee of the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

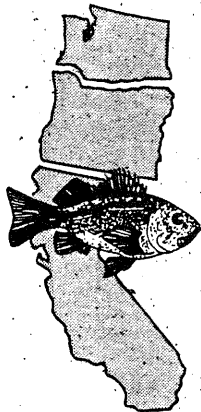
Our priority for appropriations is achieving full funding for a comprehensive West Coast groundfish observer program. In addition we are advocating for additional support for the Pacific Fishery Management Council in implementing the groundfish strategic plan.

PMCC, of course, supports additional relief funding for communities impacted by the groundfish disaster. We are urging Congress to work with the states to develop an appropriate package.

If you or any members of the Council would like further clarification of the PMCC requests, or other aspects of our rockfish recovery campaign, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Peter Huhtala
Campaign Coordinator
peter@pmcc.org



Pacific Marine Conservation Council

*"Dedicated to the health and diversity
of our marine life and habitat"*

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Peter Huhtala
Campaign Coordinator

Kelley Oletzke
Office Manager

January 31, 2001

The Honorable Ron Wyden
516 Hart Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Wyden,

Pacific Marine Conservation Council (PMCC) is a nonprofit, public benefit corporation working with commercial and recreational fishermen, marine scientists and conservationists to conserve and sustain West Coast groundfish and the coastal communities that depend upon them.

Several species of groundfish have suffered precipitous declines over the past several years. Resource managers have been compelled to place restrictions on commercial and recreational fisheries in California, Oregon and Washington. Economic losses to the businesses and families of the fishing communities have been so severe that the Secretary of Commerce issued a disaster declaration in January of 2000.

Management of ocean fisheries is extremely challenging. The Pacific Fishery Management Council took this challenge seriously while developing their strategic plan for groundfish. One high priority for the council is implementation of a West Coast observer program. In the view of PMCC, a statistically robust observer program is absolutely key to removing many of the uncertainties that distress this fishery.

2002 APPROPRIATIONS

In the interest of promulgating sustainability for West Coast fisheries in the long term, PMCC seeks your assistance in our advocacy of appropriations for fiscal year 2002. We have identified the following as vital funding needs:

- \$5 million to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) for the West Coast observer program

- \$3 million for observers and data collection in state waters and for state-managed fisheries (\$1 million each to Washington, Oregon and California)
- \$500,000 to the Pacific Fishery Management Council to help support implementation of their groundfish strategic plan, "Transition to Sustainability."

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL

PMCC believes that Emergency Supplemental Appropriations, should such a bill move this year, would be an appropriate vehicle to provide some additional support for individuals suffering under this disaster. We urge you to work with state officials to secure federal funds for community relief. Supplemental Appropriations can also be used to fund the programs that will reduce uncertainty as these fisheries move towards sustainability. If the opportunity for such funding develops during the session, PMCC asks that the following items be included:

- \$2.5 million to NMFS to augment the West Coast observer program
- \$3 million for observers and data collection in state waters and for state-managed fisheries (\$1 million each to Washington, Oregon and California)

PMCC's Executive Director, Bob Eaton, was invited to testify at the January 16, 2001, U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation (Oceans and Fisheries Subcommittee) hearing on the decline of West Coast groundfish. I am enclosing a copy of Mr. Eaton's prepared testimony. This document provides some supporting information regarding our appropriations requests. I will be pleased to discuss additional specifics with your staff. PMCC would very much appreciate your advice about how we can most effectively encourage solutions that conserve coastal resources for future generations while maintaining the viability of our communities today.

Respectfully,

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cc: Director, California Department of Fish and Game
Director, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Director, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Enclosure

United States Senate
Committee on Commerce, Science,
And Transportation
Washington, DC 20510-6125

Testimony for January 16, 2001 hearing on the decline of West Coast groundfish

STATEMENT OF BOB EATON, PACIFIC MARINE CONSERVATION COUNCIL

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, for the opportunity to testify on West Coast groundfish issues. My name is Bob Eaton. I am the Executive Director of Pacific Marine Conservation Council, or PMCC. PMCC is a nonprofit, public benefit organization working with commercial and recreational fishermen, scientists and conservationists to conserve and sustain West Coast groundfish and the coastal communities that depend upon them. PMCC's mission is dual and focuses on maintaining the health of the resource as well as the economies of coastal communities. It is this mission, combined with concerns for the state of the groundfish resource, the maintenance of fleet diversity, and the sustainability of the groundfish fishery, that is the catalyst for this testimony.

BACKGROUND

The West Coast groundfish fishery is in a crisis. One year ago, the Secretary of Commerce issued a disaster declaration for this fishery. The current situation is incrementally worse. At least five species of groundfish have declined to levels where rebuilding plans are required; this month, two more species, dark-blotched and widow rockfish, were designated as over-fished.

Exacerbating the process of rebuilding these weak stocks is the fact that they are often found where harvest of healthy stocks occurs, and the over-fished species are caught as bycatch. However, we lack reliable data regarding total mortality of these fish, because we currently have no mechanism to measure it. Fishery managers are compelled to impose trip limits and other restrictions on groundfish landings, lacking the necessary total mortality information.

Coastal communities are reeling under the economic hardship resultant from groundfish stock declines and management responses. The disaster declaration is, unfortunately, deserved. Fisherman, fishing families and local businesses are all suffering. Some areas have already lost all or part of the infrastructure that supports the fishing industry. PMCC joins these communities in aspiring to the vision of sustainable fisheries.

The Pacific Fishery Management Council is moving to implement their precedent setting five-year strategic plan for groundfish, titled "Transition to Sustainability." This thoughtfully-prepared transition envisions substantial capacity reduction, use of marine reserves as a management tool, exploring incentives to encourage less destructive and more selective gear types, and immediately implementing an observer program.

THE OBSERVER PROGRAM

The cornerstone of possible recovery for the groundfish fishery is a mandatory at-sea observer program. Fishermen and scientists often disagree over the health of a particular species, but neither has the complete data to substantiate their case. Without an observer program, managers must continue to use approximations which, if overly conservative, result in unnecessary limitations on fishing efforts. Conversely, if fish populations are over-estimated, this inadequate data could result in allowing overexploitation - to the long-term detriment of the resource and our fishing communities.

Current estimates of bycatch rates in West Coast groundfish fisheries are largely based on a study done in the mid-1980s. Making critical decisions based on outdated information is a disservice to the resource and the fishermen. From 1995-98 a very limited observer program operated with voluntary cooperation from relatively few trawl vessel operators. However, the Enhanced Data Collection Project did not provide for random placement of observers. This fact and the voluntary nature of the program essentially rendered the results to be less statistically robust and applicable than a mandatory program would be.

We've learned from extensive data collecting efforts in other fishery-dependent regions that an effective observer program must include these basic elements:

- The observer program and placement of observers must be mandatory.
- Coverage must be coast-wide.
- Observation of all gear types must be included, although coverage need not be 100% in order to be statistically valid.
- Observers must be well-trained technicians with no conflict-of-interest.
- Data must be consistently collected over a period of years and used in a timely manner.

Congress deserves congratulations for taking the affirmative step last month of appropriating \$2.275 million to begin a West Coast observer program. These funds will help develop the structure and finance a rudimentary first year program. PMCC asks that another \$2.5 million be provided to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) through 2001 Supplemental Appropriations - earmarked for the West Coast observer program. This is the requisite beginning to getting the data needed for sound management. In addition we ask that \$1 million each be provided to the states of Oregon, Washington and California to allow for observers and data gathering in near-shore and state-managed fisheries, recognizing that fish don't distinguish between state and federal waters.

For fiscal year 2002, we ask that Congress appropriate \$5 million for continuing the federally managed observer program. This is the right step to take to help move towards sustainable fisheries.

The need to secure and protect adequate funding for West Coast observers is so vital to the effort to achieve sustainable fisheries that the \$2.5 million 2001 Supplemental (plus \$3 million for the states) and the \$5 million for fiscal year 2002 should be stand-alone lines in the funding requests.

The observer program is a high priority for the Pacific Council. At the November, 2000, Council meeting a PFMC Groundfish Management Team Report began: "The GMT continues to remind the Council that lacking a comprehensive observer program, or a verified full retention program, our estimates of total fishing mortality remain highly uncertain. Absent a tool to measure changes in fish mortality that result from management changes, the GMT has no recourse other than to review trawl logbooks (which contain no discard information) and then make "guesstimates" as to what extent measures such as gear modification or changes in fishing behavior have altered observed logbook bycatch rates. Moreover, for the nontrawl sector, the GMT has no logbook program or other information to gauge the bycatch consequences of the Council's management measures. The GMT strongly supports the rapid development of an observer program that will provide information on total mortality in the groundfish fisheries."

OTHER IMPORTANT ISSUES

While the number one priority that I emphasize in this testimony is the need to adequately fund an observer program, I want to be clear that Pacific Marine Conservation Council fully supports funding for community relief. Many individuals within the fishing communities urgently need support and retraining as soon as possible. PMCC urges Congress to work with the states to provide adequate funds.

Other research activities beyond observer data collection are needed to move this fishery to recovery. Basic information is not yet available for most of the 83 federally managed groundfish species on the West Coast. We urge Congress to appropriate funds for NMFS to use to fund groundfish research through both the Southwest and Northwest Fisheries Science Centers, to conduct additional at-sea surveys and expand cooperative research efforts with the fishing industry. In fact, these cooperative projects are an excellent way to involve fishermen in data gathering while simultaneously providing some economic relief.

PMCC realizes the urgent need to support the Pacific Fishery Management Council, and encourages Congress to supplement the Council's budget with \$500,000 for staff and resources to help implement their strategic plan.

Finally, in the coming session, the Commerce Committee may have the opportunity to consider reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. PMCC encourages the committee to include language authorizing the Pacific Fishery Management Council to institute fee systems, should they choose, to enable industry participation for support of observer programs.

I look forward to assisting you and your staff as changes are made to sustain our fisheries. I am prepared to offer any information you may need and I welcome your questions. Thank you once again for this opportunity to share my thoughts and the views of my organization.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Eaton
Executive Director
Pacific Marine Conservation Council

