



Port San Luis Commercial Fisherman's Association

P.O. Box 513 Avila Beach, CA 93424

Agenda Item G.23

June 2016

Dear Council Members

My name is Butch Powers, I am a Port San Luis commercial fisherman. Mainly targeting ground fish, during the 80's and 90's, between pt. Sal and Pt. Conception there never was a problem with the hook and line fishery. Since 2000 it has been a steady progression of more and more negative impacts to our local economy, and small boat fishing fleet.

The Jig Fishing EFP could be a step a step in the right direction, only if is allowed to go forward. With 100% observer coverage it is obvious that the intentions are less than sincere. For more than a decade of meetings, workshops, and costly trips, to see nothing happen has led our fishermen to a level of frustration that is unjustifiable.

Unless things have changed, the abundance of "Chilies" should be easy to establish, as well as prove this method of gear type to be effective in avoiding yellow eye. I encourage you to be flexible with observer coverage and give this EFP an opportunity to succeed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Butch Powers".

Butch Powers

President, Port San Luis Commercial Fisherman's Association

Dear Council,

Regarding agenda item G.2 "Jig Fishing EFP"

My name is Chris Buccat, F/V Hook, Up from Port San Luis.

I fish outside the RCA on the Bank, I spent a lot of money setting my boat up to fish for "Blackgill Rockfish" Open Access. Then the quota got changed from 10,000 lbs. to 450 lbs., it made it not affordable. My boat is set up and I would like to have an opportunity to fish "Chillies".

One thing for Council to consider for small boat fishermen is when adjusting quota, not to punish Open Access, perhaps a scale more equitable between ITQ fisheries, and local fishermen, small fish businesses and the economy of our local community needs not to be ignored.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chris Buccat". The signature is stylized with a large initial "C" and a long horizontal stroke.

Sincerely, Chris

David Bitts
President
Larry Collins
Vice-President
Stephanie Mutz
Secretary
Chuck Cappotto
Treasurer

PACIFIC COAST FEDERATION of FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATIONS



Timothy R. Sloane
Executive Director
Glen H. Spain
Northwest Regional Director
Vivian Helliwell
Watershed Conservation Director
In Memoriam:
Nathaniel S. Bingham
Harold C. Christensen
W.F. "Zeke" Grader, Jr.

Please Respond to:

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26 May 2016

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Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101
Portland, Oregon 97220-1384

RE: Agenda Item G3

Dear Council,

PCFFA is concerned that, within the increasing web of federal and state fisheries regulation, much of which we support from our perspective of solid agreement with National Standard 1 of Magnuson, development of new fisheries should continue to be not just possible but encouraged. The environmental community has proposed a revision to Magnuson which as we understand it would require a fisheries management plan to be developed before a new fishery could be started. We disagree for two reasons: 1) this requirement would, in our opinion, effectively preclude the development of new fisheries entirely; and 2) Magnuson already has a provision that allows new fisheries to develop in a gradual and orderly fashion, i.e., to start, but not to bloom and expand in advance of necessary information about sustainable rates of catch, bycatch, etc.

That provision is the experimental fishery permit. It allows a very limited number of boats to try out a new gear type, target species, area, etc. under close and careful monitoring for a limited time. If the new stuff is promising, fishery development can proceed; if harmful consequences are observed, the small scale of the EFP fishery will have prevented serious damage.

So far so good but: as part of the close and careful monitoring, EFPs currently require 100% observer coverage. This may be fine for a large-boat, large-volume fishery, but it's not so good for the type of small-boat operations which are still the vast majority of the American commercial fishing fleet. Lots and lots of smaller operators are or could be quite successful with daily gross incomes under \$1000, but observers cost more than \$500 a day. We know of two west coast EFPs that are trading water because observer cost is pretty close to potential daily

gross income. In this situation, the otherwise quite useful EFP program becomes a fatal barrier to developing a new fishery.

PCFFA therefore supports the proposal currently before the Pacific Fishery Management Council to allow 30% observer coverage for some EFPs. We note that, for the salmon fishery, 20% random sampling of catches is considered statistically quite robust. If there is any doubt about the adequacy of 30% coverage, we would suggest that, on unobserved trips, fishermen be required to keep the same records kept by the observers, with the expectation that if the observer's and fishermen's records are statistically similar enough, the fishermen's data are considered useful and reliable.

Sincerely,

/s/

Dave Bitts
President

From: annaray@frontiernet.net <annaray@frontiernet.net>
Date: Tue, May 24, 2016 at 7:25 PM
Subject: EFP
To: "pfmtc.comments@noaa.gov" <pfmtc.comments@noaa.gov>
Re: Observer coverage fee

I am Ray Nottengel, my wife and I have been participants in the yellow tail rock jig fishing study.

We are happy to continue participating, but are asking for a change in the amount of observer coverage required. My wife, myself and my deckhands are able to identify species, total # of fish, and pounds obtained each trip. We also will record non retainable fish counts, record hook number fish was caught on, size of hooks, weights, size of floats, number of hooks and spacing of hooks. We will also record water depth each time we move, record longitude and latitude and water temps for each location, and record total number of drops of gear per trip.

Being involved in this study for 3 years now, we certainly can do the job 70 % of the trips we participate in. A favorable decision would be appreciated by all of us involved in this important study.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Captain Ray Nottengel

Agenda Item G.2

June 2016

Dear Council Members

APPLICATION FOR EXEMPTED FISHING PERMIT FOR YELLOWTAIL ROCKFISH JIG FISHING FOR
THE 2017-2018 SEASON

The Port San Luis Fisherman are Looking forward in participating in this Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP), and develop a selective fishery with access to these underutilized rock fish. For our area "Chilipepper Rockfish" will be targeted.

We are hopeful that the council will allow 30% observe coverage. With all the costs involved, it will be extremely difficult for our boats not to lose money.

I have experience working 3 years with the Salmon Council on the GSI Project and could facilitate for our group as a volunteer, organizing and acting as a liaison using the protocol involved in data collection for observers.

Thank you

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D Kirk", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David Kirk F/V Sunshine Lady

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