

09/11/2016

Pacific Marine Fishery Management Counsel
1201 Northeast Lloyd Boulevard, Suite 1100
Portland, OR 97232
503-230- 5400; Fax 503-230- 5435

RECEIVED

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PFMC

Subject: New proposal for the protection of Lingcod brood stocks, and Markets while also protecting the Yellow Eyed Rockfish with catch limit changes.

Dear National Marine Fisheries Management Council;

As a Dingle Bar fisherman since the early eighties from Coos Bay to Humbug Mountain it is my opinion and agreed upon by my fellow Dingle Bar colleges here in Coos Bay that we would like to see changes in the Lingcod catch limits and size to not only help protect the Lingcod brood stocks, but to also help maintain our fish buyers with steady markets.

The protection of future Yellow eyed rockfish, Lingcod brood stocks, markets, and the weather are our biggest concerns and determining factors when it comes to participating in the Dingle Bar fisheries.

Dingle Baring is a select targeting fishery that targets specifically Lingcod, but discourages snapper rock fish from biting our "ridged gear" which in turn protects other endangered species; specifically the Yellow eyed and Canary rockfish which are extremely rarely seen in our Lingcod targeted fishing areas.

"Ridged gear" is using halibut wires, 400lb tuna cord, and lead heads with scampi tails and not using any form of salmon gear in the mix with Lingcod gear; such as flashers, spoons, shrimp fly's, or hootchies which attracts snapper varieties of fish, so Lingcod is very well selected and targeted for catch only.

Fish buyers have a hard time holding markets:

The public becomes use to coming to purchase fish when our catch limits are at 600lbs a month, but when the catch limit drops to 100lbs per month in the winter months along with stronger southerly weather and less Lingcod product is available for consumption the public tends to not participate in purchases knowing that there's no Lingcod available thus we lose our markets.

By the time we are back on 600lbs a month the public tends to continue not to come purchase Lingcod, so this puts a burden on the fish buyers to move 600lbs of product which in turn buyer tell the fishermen they can't take this much poundage keeping fishermen in port and not fishing.

- If ODFW's records show that a Lingcod of 22 inches has not breed yet, but a Lingcod of 24 inch probably has breed. We as harvesters' of Lingcod are willing to raise the taking of young Lingcod from 22 inches to 24 inches to help protect and promote breeding.
- By voluntarily releasing oversized Lingcod brood stock in the winter when they move from offshore and into the shallows to lay their eggs; this will assure the continued preserving of Lingcod brood stocks. Lingcod are very resilient and are not affected by ocean depths changes for releasing purposes as snappers are, so market undesired overly large Lingcod are safely released.

When attending the September 09, 2016 Nearshore ODFW meeting in Port Offord, ODFW's grafts and projection models show a substantial increase in the Lingcod stocks form years prior until present; in correlation with these increase the catch limits were raised to 600lbs a month from May to November and 100lbs from December to April from 0.

According to ODFW's records, in 2015, 1403 ton of Lingcod was allowed for commercial catch and fishermen deliveries were only 767 ton for that year, thus our participation of deliveries are way under the allowable catch.

In my personal opinion; with 18 years of salmon and ding barring commercial fishing experience; Yellow Eyed and Canary rock fish do not venture into our nearshore Lingcod targeting areas in the winter months any more than in the summer months. Both species tend to stay off shore in their normal habitat, so a lowered catch limit from December through April in the winter months is not necessary for protecting them!

In conclusion; to protect the Yellow eye and Canary snapper, to protect the Lingcod brood stock, to preserve young first time Lingcod breeders, and to sustain our fish buying markets these are our proposals to be adopted at the earliest time possible!

Our Proposal: **1. 500lbs monthly Lingcod catch limits for the total year; increasing present poundage by 1300lbs a year.**

OR,

2. 400lbs monthly Lingcod catch limits for the total year; increasing present poundage by 100lbs a year.

Raising the commercial Lingcod size limit from 22 inches to 24 inches.

Thank you for your time and your consideration on this important matter!

Sincerely,



Marlin Thome

F/V Pacific Rim

P.O. Box 5600

Charleston, Oregon 97420-0623

(503) 701-7276