

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Peter LaZerte** <[plazerte@hotmail.com](mailto:plazerte@hotmail.com)>  
Date: Fri, May 26, 2017 at 5:13 AM  
Subject: Ground fish bag limits ( Agenda item B1)  
To: "[pfmtc.comments@noaa.gov](mailto:pfmtc.comments@noaa.gov)" <[pfmtc.comments@noaa.gov](mailto:pfmtc.comments@noaa.gov)>

Council Members:

My name is Peter Lazerte , have lived here in the NW some 60 yes. The fisheries council does great work in managing a resource that sees increasingly more pressure from our expanding population. I do believe that including sandabs that get used for catching Ling cod in our bag limit is over reach. Please consider a separate limit on these flattish as they really are not targeted by the sportsman as a food fish. Here are the reasons why.

1. One catches less rockfish when fishing for Ling cod
2. Easier for the novice to catch Ling cod
3. Bigger Ling cod are caught
4. Sandabs are abundant.

I also was never aware that these bait fish were considered part of my limit. What's next herring and anchovies? Please consider the changes I've suggested. P Lazerte 5/25/2017

----- Forwarded message -----

From: <[blackelk@centurytel.net](mailto:blackelk@centurytel.net)>  
Date: Fri, May 26, 2017 at 8:24 AM  
Subject: sand dabs flounder for bait  
To: "[pfmtc.comments@noaa.gov](mailto:pfmtc.comments@noaa.gov)" <[pfmtc.comments@noaa.gov](mailto:pfmtc.comments@noaa.gov)>

Agenda Item B1  
5/26/17

I just learned that if you catch a sand dab and put in your bait tank live to use for bait to catch a ling cod it now counts towards our reduced bottom fish limit. They should not count towards our limit as no one eats them, no food value. They work as well as greenlings for bigger lings that eat yellow eye and canary. The sand dabs or flounder are easily caught and require no skill to use to catch lings. We all are using descenders to send yellow eye back down, but this bait only catches ling cod. I think 6 sand dabs per person on top of the 7 black rock fish, 2lings, 1 cabezon would be a good idea. I wish the coast of Washington, mostly Westport.

Thanks  
Mike Hume  
147 Katon Rd  
Montesano, Wa  
[360-249-2290](tel:360-249-2290)

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From: **Bob Olsen** <[b\\_lolsen@hotmail.com](mailto:b_lolsen@hotmail.com)>

Date: Fri, May 26, 2017 at 3:31 PM

Subject: bag limits

To: "[pfmc.comments@noaa.gov](mailto:pfmc.comments@noaa.gov)" <[pfmc.comments@noaa.gov](mailto:pfmc.comments@noaa.gov)>

5/26/2017, "Agenda Item B1"

Dear sirs,

My name is Robert Olsen and I live in Richland, Washington. I also have a house in Westport, Washington. I fish for lingcod on a regular basis with Rhett Weber on the Charter Boat Slammer out of Westport. I have been doing this for the better part of 20 years and am extremely dissatisfied with the recent enforcement issues regarding small flounder, that for years have been used to target larger lingcod and are now being counted as part of my bag limit, unbeknownst to us rule abiding anglers. THIS IS ABSOLUTELY RIDICULESS! The "sand dabs" that we use for bait, precludes the chance of catching non-targeted fish, for example, black rockfish, yellow eye, and canary rockfish, to name a few. The "sand dabs" are very abundant, easy to catch, and less skilled anglers and kids have a better chance of catching that one "BIG" fish that keeps the public buying licenses, which by the way, are getting far to expensive. Another advantage of using "sand dabs" for lingcod bait, is that while fishing for "sand dabs" I have an opportunity to catch a large enough starry flounder to keep which WOULD be counted as part of my bag limit, this is a bonus for me.

"We, rule abiding anglers do here-by insist, that pfmc streamline the process or at the very least work with the WDFW to address this issue by increasing the bag limit for groundfish on the coast to 12. The sub limits for lingcod and Rockfish should remain the same as they are now. By adding 3 "other" fish or 3 "other" flatfish, to the bag limit would not only heighten the general publics fishing experience but reduce the unnecessary added expenditure of tax payer and license purchasers dollars on frivolous "nit picky" tickets being written.

Thank you in advance, for your attention to this, by adding "Agenda Item B1" to your next meeting.

Sincerely,

Robert Olsen,

Long time Washington State freshwater and saltwater angler

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From: **nick scafturon** <[nick367@hotmail.com](mailto:nick367@hotmail.com)>

Date: Fri, May 26, 2017 at 3:46 PM

Subject: Flounder as a Baitfish

To: "[pfmc.comments@noaa.gov](mailto:pfmc.comments@noaa.gov)" <[pfmc.comments@noaa.gov](mailto:pfmc.comments@noaa.gov)>

Agenda Item B1

Reasons that there should be an increased groundfish limit or seperate limit for flounder as the use of lingcod bait.

1. The flounder are plentiful with no commercial fisheries that target them
2. They keep the number of accidental Yellow Eye encounters to a minimum while fishing for Lingcod in the deep.
3. They work extremely well when it comes to targeting mature Lingcod, allowing the smaller fish a chance to grow up.
4. With the recent Rockfish limit decrease, catching flounder for bait adds another fun activity for the day.
5. Using live flounder for bait requires very limited effort and is great for children, elderly or disabled people.

Thank you for your time,

Nick Scafturon Owner/Operator of C/V High Life out of Westport, Washington

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **linda averill** <seagull3@msn.com>

Date: Sat, May 27, 2017 at 3:51 PM

Subject: Groundfish problem

To: "Kelly.Ames@noaa.gov" <Kelly.Ames@noaa.gov>

AGENDA ITEM B1

Linda Averill

817 Quinn Marysville, WA 98270

5/27/17

I have been fishing at Westport with the charters for over 20 years. I was unaware that even if used for bait flounder counts against my limit. I understand that Enforcement has started checking bait tanks and counting Flounder and writing tickets. I was unaware until this spring, I had always assumed that if I was never over my bag limit, the ones used for bait did not count. For the last 15 years I have been a charter customer of Deep Sea Charters and gone on the Slammer where we have used flatfish for lingcod bait. I wish to continue to use this as bait for the following reasons:

1. They are abundant and easily caught and fun to catch.
2. They do not require any special skill or stamina to use and are great for novice anglers to catch Lingcod.
3. I believe we catch larger Lingcod using this bait.

Unfortunately, continued reductions of the bag limit of fish will have an impact on how often I will go fishing.. though it is fun and a vacation, it just won't be cost effective.

I would like to see the limit of ground fish raised so that we are not penalized with a decrease in our "take home limit" of rock cod because we use this type of bait. Looking at the other western coastal states.... California has no limit on Sand Dabs, and 10 per person up to 20 on most other flatfish. Oregon has a 25 fish "Marine Fish Bag Limit" of which after sub-limits leaves them with plenty for bait.

"I hereby ask PFMC to streamline the process, or ask WDFW to address this issue by increasing the bag limit for groundfish on the coast to 12. The sub limits for Lingcod and Rockfish should remain the same, but an additional 3 other fish, or 3 other Flatfish should be reconsidered as a means of preventing further tickets from being written."

----- Forwarded message -----

From: <[lgbfishing@gmail.com](mailto:lgbfishing@gmail.com)>

Date: Thu, May 25, 2017 at 10:07 PM

Subject: Flatfish for baite

To: "[pfmtc.comments@noaa.gov](mailto:pfmtc.comments@noaa.gov)" <[pfmtc.comments@noaa.gov](mailto:pfmtc.comments@noaa.gov)>

5/25/2017      Agenda B1

My name is Larry Brown ,I live in Westport, Washington I am writing to voice my opposition to PFMC and WDFW counting small flat fish as part of the daily bag limit even if they are used for live bait to catch larger fish like Lingcod, I have been fishing for them to use as Lingcod bait for 4 years mostly out of Westport ,WA on the Charter boat slammer , I like to continue catching them and using them as bait without having to include them as part of my daily bag limit they are very effective bait to catch Lingcod without risking catching other fish like Rockfish helping to maintain my legal Rock fish bag limit without going over it by just targeting Lingcod by using flatfish , they also produce bigger sized Lingcod caught, they are abundant and easily caught, up until today I was unaware that the flatfish would be counted against my daily Rockfish bag limit which I feel is unfair and not necessary being there is plenty of flatfish to be caught.

I hereby ask PFMC to streamline the process, or ask WDFW to address the issue by increasing the bag limit for ground fish on the coast to 12, the sub limits for Lingcod and Rockfish should remain the same as it is now, but an additional 3 other fish or 3 other flatfish should be reconsidered as a means to prevent tickets from being written.

California has no limit on Sand Dabs and 10 per person up to 20 on most other flatfish.

Oregon has a 25 fish Marine fish bag limit of which after sub limits leaves them with plenty for bat fish.

Thank You.

Larry G Brown

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Jim Satterlee** <[jrsat01@aol.com](mailto:jrsat01@aol.com)>

Date: Fri, May 26, 2017 at 9:33 PM

Subject: Agenda Item B1

To: [pfmc.comments@noaa.gov](mailto:pfmc.comments@noaa.gov)

5/26/2017, Jim Satterlee Deer Park, Washington,

I have been fishing for Ling Cod using flat fish for bait for over 5 years, most recently with Rhett Weber Owner Operator Charter boat SLAMMER.

1. They reduce the amount of Rockfish or other fish you do not wish to catch while fishing for Lingcod.
2. They produce bigger Lingcod.
3. They do not require any special skill or stamina to use and are great for novice anglers to catch Lingcod.
4. They are abundant and easily caught.

so, to continue to use flat fish for bait I should not have to forgo a Rockfish out of your bag. I was unaware that if used for bait that they counted against your limit.

"We hereby ask PFMC to streamline the process, or ask WDFW to address this issue by increasing the bag limit for ground fish on the coast to 12.

The sub limits for Lingcod and Rockfish should remain the same, but an additional 3 other fish, or 3 other Flatfish should be reconsidered as a means of preventing further tickets from being written."

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Regards, Jim Satterlee

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From: **Slack, Sanford** <[sanford.slack@soundtransit.org](mailto:sanford.slack@soundtransit.org)>

Date: Fri, May 26, 2017 at 3:51 PM

Subject: Agenda Item B1

To: "[pfmc.comments@noaa.gov](mailto:pfmc.comments@noaa.gov)" <[pfmc.comments@noaa.gov](mailto:pfmc.comments@noaa.gov)>

Good Morning,

My name is Sanford Slack and I live in Puyallup, WA. And I have fished for rockfish and lingcod for 15 years here in WA State. I just wanted to express my interest in getting flounder off the rockfish bag limit as quite a few of us use them for lingcod bait during the season. Maybe there can be an alternate way of calculating bag limits for this specific reason, Thank you for considering my request.

I fish out of Westport, WA with the Charterboat Slammer for lingcod mostly.

1. They reduce the amount of Rockfish or other fish you do not wish to catch while fishing for Lingcod.
2. They produce bigger Lingcod.
3. They do not require any special skill or stamina to use and are great for novice anglers to catch Lingcod.
4. They are abundant and easily caught plus I would like to keep a Starry Flounder and not have to forgo a Rockfish out of my bag.

I was also unaware that if used for bait that they counted against your limit.

"We hereby ask PFMC to streamline the process, or ask WDFW to address this issue by increasing the bag limit for ground fish on the coast to 12. The sub limits for Lingcod and Rockfish should remain the same, but an additional 3 other fish, or 3 other Flatfish should be reconsidered as a means of preventing further tickets from being written."

I would like folks from Puget Sound to come up with a solution for their areas so this problem does not spread. The way I read the regs, you would really have to know your flatfish in order to stay on the right side of the law.

**Sanford G. Slack**

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From: <[blarson065@gmail.com](mailto:blarson065@gmail.com)>

Date: Tue, May 30, 2017 at 10:10 AM

Subject: Agenda Item B1

To: "[pfmtc.comments@noaa.gov](mailto:pfmtc.comments@noaa.gov)" <[pfmtc.comments@noaa.gov](mailto:pfmtc.comments@noaa.gov)>

May 30, 2017

To: [Pacific Fishery Management Council](#)

From: Brian Larson, 2311 Kst SE, Auburn, WA 98002

RE: Agenda Item B1

Dear Reader;

I strongly urge the Pacific Management Fisheries Council to allow extra flatfish to be included in the sport catch daily limit by streamlining the process of allowing such and working with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife as necessary.

I have been using flatfish for bait to catch lingcod since the 1960's in Puget Sound, at Neah Bay and in area 2 out of Westport. Until several years ago it was in a private boat, age is catching up with me, now my fishing is done on charter boats out of almost entirely out of Westport.

I do not believe it is reasonable to forego, or substitute, a rockfish or lingcod from the daily bag limit so we can use a flounder as bait.

Flounder are abundant. I truly believe that the miniscule amount caught and used for bait has no biological impact on the population on these fish. It would only take 3 – 5 extra flounder a person to to have enough flounder for bait.

Using live flounder is beneficial for endangered species of bottomfish. I only have caught lingcod on live flounder. On a 2016 trip to La Push where herring was used as bait, our charter caught over 20 Yelloweye Rockfish in addition to the lingcod and halibut we kept.

I travel to Westport just to fish for lingcod with live bait. It is more enjoyable for me, we only catch lingcod, lingcod seem to bite harder, and larger lingcod are caught. I make 6 – 7 of these trips during the season, staying two nights in local hotels and shopping and dining at local restaurants.

Please reconsider and allow the bag limit increased to allow for more flatfish to be used as bait. Using flounder will not affect the biomass of flounder, is beneficial for the endangered species of bottomfish, and is more enjoyable for sports fisherman which helps local economies.

Thank you,  
Brian Larson

----- Forwarded message -----  
From: **Brian253** <[brian253@comcast.net](mailto:brian253@comcast.net)>  
Date: Tue, May 30, 2017 at 10:11 AM  
Subject: Agend Item B1  
To: [pfmc.comments@noaa.gov](mailto:pfmc.comments@noaa.gov)

May 30, 2017

To: [Pacific Fishery Management Council](#)  
From: Brian Larson, 2311 Kst SE, Auburn, WA 98002  
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Thank you,  
Brian Larson