



2 September 2018

Esteemed Commissioners,

My name is Rick Oefinger.

I am president of Marina del Rey Sportfishing, Inc and Marina del Rey Bait Company, which I formed in 1997, strictly to provide Live Bait via our little 40 ton drum seiner "MONA LISA" to the five CPFV's that operate from MDRSF as well as private boaters and walkup bait customers. Our business is keeping fish Alive.

Since 1970 the CPFV industry has been the only job I've had, 98% of that has been on the Santa Monica Bay, Los Angeles County, CA, and last year Marina del Rey Sportfishing carried over 40,000 passengers... Abundant, readily Available Live Bait is obviously critical to our and every other sportfishing operation and private anglers.

...I mentioned MONA LISA's capacity because of the huge water /fish ratio required to keep bait alive, where, under Ideal Conditions i.e. Cold Clean Oxygen Rich water, less when it's warm, dirty, is about 400 scoops, which might equate to two tons of fish, and you realize that usually, at least 90% of the bait taken on any given trip is released Alive as chum or at days end when the boat's bait tanks are drained, the actual fish removed from the environment is very small; I'll venture that on a typical day, Sea Lions in Santa Monica Bay alone might eat more sardines than the entire CPFV fleet kills.

I consider myself an extremely environmentally conscious, respectful and aware person, my involvement which time here doesn't allow me to list, but believe me, if I felt that the Live Bait Fishery, which is only really, what?, 7 or 8 dedicated operations, posed any real threat to the health of the forage fish populations, we'd be first in line calling for restrictions.

Commissioners, The CA Live Bait Fishery is really Very Small, Very Low Impact while Vitally Important to Tens of Thousands of people from all walks of life from California and Around The World, who use our services to get out and enjoy some time on the water.

We and most other Bait Haulers already VOLUNTARILY Participate in submitting Bait Logs to The State, but, if deemed necessary and will help to preserve our fishery, wholeheartedly support an updated or mandatory reporting system, some ideas of such we are already working on with Sportfishing Assn. CA and The State and, Therefore, We Recommend and Request the Removal of the "15% Commentary" in The Management Plan.

Feel free to contact me at any time. 310 372 3712, RICK@MDRSF.NET

Sincerely,

Rick Oefinger, President

Marina Del Rey Bait Co., Inc.
13759 Fiji Way
Marina del Rey, CA 90292

Dock 310.822.3625
Office 310.372.3712
VHF Ch.19