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**Subject:**CCA restructuring

**Date:**Wed, 02 Jun 2010 20:58:35 -0700

**From:**Frank Ursitti <[fursitti@roadrunner.com](mailto:fursitti@roadrunner.com)>

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

Mr. David Ortmann, Chairman  
Pacific Fishery Management Council  
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101  
Portland, OR 97220-1384

Dear Chairman Ortmann,

In 2001 the Cow Cod Conservation Area (CCA) was created, and in doing so set aside over 4,500 square miles of ocean to protect Cow Cod. It is now 2010 and quite a bit of research has been completed regarding this species.

The CCA creation was a necessary reaction with regards to protecting Cow Cod. It was, at the time of creation, extremely restrictive.

After almost a decade of monitoring, studies suggest Cow Cod thrive in a much deeper environment than originally determined. It would not seem unreasonable at this point to move the depth of access within the CCA to a level above their typical habitat. Additionally, the original ruling prohibited retention of shelf rockfish within the CCA. Not only is this ruling extreme and overly restrictive, one must consider the absolute waste of the shelf rockfish resource while complying with current regs within the region.

Fishing activities and access to this resource are essential to my livelihood. These same activities are an important part of the local economy.

During the last decade, we have used blanket closures as a management tool; it would seem appropriate to reopen areas when studies logically indicate impact to the resource and or the intended protected species will be nonexistent or minimal at best.

The purpose of this letter is therefore to respectfully request that the Council consider two items.

1. Staff consideration be given to study the viability of opening those areas of the CCA shallower than Cow Cod reside.
2. To permit retention of shelf rockfish when fishing in waters shallower than it is determined Cow Cod reside within the CCA.

In closing, the purpose of the CCA was to protect Cow Cod. Current studies suggest much more area was closed than necessary. Allowing access to the area shallower than Cow Cod thrive, and permitting the lawful take of shelf rockfish within this region, would restore a critical fishing area to the Sportfishing community at large.

Sincerely,

Frank T. Ursitti  
Ranger 85 & Coral Sea Sportfishing

Dear Council members,

I am writing to request a small line change to the current RCA in central California. I ask that you move the line in to conform to the outer boundaries of the current EFH that encompasses the Cordell Bank.

The current RCA lines have eliminated all H&L landings of shelf rockfish in this district. The drifting regulations along with the depth of water these fish live in has created a situation where fishermen are afraid to fish. Myself included.

The trawl sector is currently enjoying exclusive rights to fish for shelf rock fish, (Chillie Pepper), while the H&L boats are eliminated. I look forward to any solution you can find to mend this injustice.

Josh Churchman

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