

----- Original Message -----

Subject:2010 in-season yelloweye reduction
Date:Sat, 22 May 2010 12:21:44 -0700 (PDT)
From:D Franks <acousticassurfboards@yahoo.com>
To:pfmc.comments@noaa.gov

To whom it may concern,

Any reduction in quota to the already struggling commercial nearshore fishery could very well be it's demise. Please leave us with our current quota where we at least have a fighting chance.

Thank you,

Daniel Franks, Skipper of Oregon Nearshore Commercial F/V Kokomo

----- Original Message -----

Subject:nearshore quotas/Yellow Eye Rockfish
Date:Sat, 22 May 2010 17:37:41 -0700
From:waterboy@nwtec.com
To:pfmc.comments@noaa.gov

Hello my name my name is Sean Roberts owner/operator of the f/v Aimless Wanderer. I am wanting to get my input in on the Yellow Eye rock fish reductions we are currently facing. the nearshore fishery is currently one of the cleanest fisheries we very low by catch mortality and it would be a very bad thing to have such a clean fishery cease to exist. the current quotas in this fishery are barely enough to keep us going as is and at least on my boat I do not think we can handle any further reductions of quotas.

Thank you for considering my input on this matter Sean

----- Original Message -----

Subject:yellow eye concerns

Date:Mon, 24 May 2010 09:37:56 -0500 (CDT)

From:terryann11@verizon.net

To:pfmc.comments@noaa.gov

To whom it may concern:

I am a commercial nearshore fisherman from port orford or.my fishery has almost no bi-catch of yellow eye. ANY REDUCTION of our fishing grounds or quotas would only cause economic hardship for our community. sincerely, steve hatfield

----- Original Message -----

Subject:2010 yelloweye reduction

Date:Fri, 21 May 2010 20:12:31 -0700

From:Gene Fowler <geneandclaudia@gmail.com>

To:pfmc.comments@noaa.gov

To Members of the Pacific Fisheries Council;

This is in regards to the 2010 yelloweye reduction. Economically, the near shore commercial fisheries shouldn't have to take more reductions. We have already had our fishing grounds reduced. The quota's on several of our fish species have also been reduced. Further reductions for near shore commercial fisheries will have little impact on yelloweye. Fisheries in less than 20 fathoms shouldn't have to take any more reductions. The reduction that will make the most impact on yelloweye needs to come from fisheries operating in deeper water. That's where the yelloweye habitat is.

Sincerely,

Gene and Claudia Fowler

F/V Sea Hunt

F/V Alyssa

F/V Kaf-feine

From:
Evan Locke <evanlocke96@yahoo.com>
Date:
Wed, 26 May 2010 18:27:16 -0700 (PDT)
To:
pfmc.comments@noaa.gov

Dear members of the council my name is Evan Locke. I,m a nearshore fisherman in Port Orford Oregon. I hava been fishing here for about three years, and during this time I have caught a very small number of Yelloweye Rockfish.. The reason I'm not catching the Yelloweye is because I'm jigging in fifteen fathoms or less nintynine percent of the time. If I fish near the twenty fathom line I do encounter an ocasional Yelloweye or Canary. If I do catch a Yelloweye I vent the fish send back to the bottom and leave the area. In the last five months I can only remember catching a couple of Yelloweye. I can't see how jigging has any impact at all on the Yelloweye so I don't see how cutting quotas or shutting down the fishery would have any benefit . I know there are a lot of Yelloweye in thirty to forty fathoms which is outside are fishery. I do think boats that longline in deeper water catch more of the species . If I catch one on my fishing pole I can simply move only catching that one fish. I must also say that a reduction or closer would have a devestating financial impact on my family. The nearshore fishery is the only fishery I partisipate in. I hope the council can find a way to save the Yelloweye and maintain the nearshore fishery because myself and other nearshore fisherman like me are simply not the problem .

Subject:
Yelloweye Allocation
From:
Tom and Mary Marking <tmmarking@sbcglobal.net>
Date:
Wed, 26 May 2010 21:11:31 -0700 (PDT)
To:
pfmc.comments@noaa.gov

To: Mr. David Ortmann, Chair
Pacific Marine Fishery Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101
Portland, Oregon 97220-1384

The Council took action at the April meeting to set the ACL for Yelloweye at 20 MT. This was an increase of three metric tons from the 2009 year, which was to allow for research in the three western coastal states. Unfortunately, the NRDC lawsuit has now forced the ACL to be set at 14 MT, a reduction of 6 MT from the Council action in April. This is of critical importance to the Northern California area, that has very restricted fishing seasons at present due to the YE issue. Currently, north of the 40 degree 10 minute line we are restricted to a 120 day groundfish season and Shelter Cove, the port area just below that latitide line, has only a 90 day season. The Cape Mendicino coastline has deep marine canyons and pinnacles that are excellent habitat for YE and the Punta Gorda area exceeded the YE bycatch last year by recreational fisherman. With the

lowered YE ACL, we suffer the risk of a shorter groundfish season or a closure for the entire year. That would be economically devastating to our region. We suffered an early closure in 2008 due to YE bycatch that conservatively cost the Eureka port over 7 million dollars per month and 52,000 lost fishing trips for the northern area. The YE issue has tremendous impact on our area and

this reduction will have major economic impact on our ports. Our area is suffering through the loss of the salmon season last year and further groundfish reductions will force more business out of our area. There are a few Management Control issues that could help alleviate the pressure we are under.

There are gear restriction methods that could help reduce the YE bycatch in this area and the institution of a new latitude line in the Viscaino area would isolate this particular coastline from the rest of California. A new latitude line would allow for reduction of YE catch in that area without affecting the rest of the State. This Management Regulation could have substantial impact on the northern area that is already under extreme economic pressure due to YE incidental catch.

Currently, we are in the MPA process that is proposed to shut off 20% of our coast but will target major groundfish areas. This is another regulatory blow that will cause more economic harm to our area. The Northern California area is only allowed to fish 120 days per year for groundfish less than 20 fathoms. Further restriction will only cause more economic damage.

We would encourage the Council to look at Management Methods that would isolate the affected areas. The NRDC lawsuit has exacerbated an already difficult situation. We would implore the Council to study this reduce ACL carefully and do whatever you can to relieve the economic stress in our region.

Thank you for consideration of this request.

Tom Marking,
Humboldt Area Saltwater Anglers
GAP sportfishing representative for California

FV SEEADLER

3059 Sherman Road
Pebble Beach, CA 93953

Phone: (831) 373-5238
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MAY 17 2010

PFMC

May 13, 2010

Mr. Dave Ortman
Chairman
Pacific Fishery Management Council
77000 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101
Portland, OR 97220

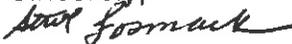
Dear Chairman Dave Ortman and Members of the Council:

RE: Pending Exempted Fishing Permit for using longline for chilipepper rockfish

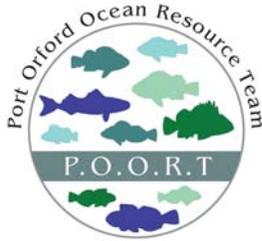
I would like to comment on a recent Court decision changing the 2010 yelloweye Optimum Yield from 17 metric tons to 14 metric tons. Because this Court decision, as well as the Council's pending decision on 2011-2012 harvest levels for yelloweye and canary, may have an incidental affect on EFPs, my concerns are as follows.

The EFP is intended as an alternative to provide a reasonable catch of an underutilized, healthy species while avoiding many species of concern such as yelloweye and canary. I am concerned that this EFP will be discontinued for 2010, to provide a very small amount of yelloweye back to the scorecard and will kill an opportunity to provide communities with needed fish. I am also concerned that in June when the Council considers setting the yelloweye and canary harvest levels for 2011-2012 it may find our EFP is unlikely to be approved for 2011 - 2012 due to the highly constraining nature of these species. I respectfully request that the Council consider the long term impacts of setting harvest levels so low that EFPs are not possible will prevent new and innovative fishing techniques to be developed that would provide income for fishermen and their communities, while protecting species that are rebuilding. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



Steve Fosmark
FV SEEADLER



Port Orford Ocean Resource Team

P.O. Box 679
351 6th Street
Port Orford, OR 97465
P: 541.332.0627
F: 541.332.1170

info@oceanresourceteam.org
<http://oceanresourceteam.org>

May 24, 2010

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

Dear Mr. Ortmann:

We are writing to express our concern about the new yelloweye management requirement to reduce 3mt of by-catch. While we understand the necessity of finding more yelloweye savings, we are concerned that the fixed-gear fleet can't sustain further restrictions.

Our community took a hit for yelloweye when the RCA was moved in to 20 fathoms. This moved us off prime fishing grounds. Further restrictions to the nearshore fishery in our region could put us out of business.

We do not understand why the 20 fathom line, established to reduce yelloweye bycatch, is not extended to the recreation fishery? Would it be possible to find the required yelloweye by-catch savings there? You could also extend the 20 fathom line north of our region to bring the coast in to the same line that we are fishing inside.

Be assured we understand the need to conserve yelloweye as the fishery rebuilds. We do hope that any savings of yelloweye by-catch could be managed equitably and not imposed on one user group.

Presently, twenty-five percent of the jobs in our community are directly connected to commercial fishing. There are thirty-eight nearshore fishermen working out of Port Orford. Our community is dependent on the nearshore fishery and we need to keep these fishermen on the water, working to support their families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Leesa Cobb".

Leesa Cobb
Director

May 24 - 2010

Dear Chairman Oetmann:

In a small town like Port Orford the fishing industries is very important.

The rock fish play a big part of the fisherman income. Because of the already low quotas the only way to make any money at rock fishing is to live fish because of the higher price for the live fish.

But if you again cut the quotas on the rock fish it may not be worth

the cost of keeping live fish in Port Orford.

- As a live buyer it cost alot to maintain a live fish market in Port Orford and then truck to the Bay area for marketing. At this time it is already hard to have a year round supply of live rock fish with the quotas we have now.

All of the live rock fishing done around here do all that they can to avoid yellow eye. And if by chance they do catch a yellow eye, all the fishermen know how to release the fish unharmed.

I cannot say that about sport fishing or any fish caught by trawl. So why punish the ones that

unpack the yellow eye the
least. Dont take what little
fishing we have left.

NOR Cal Seafood Inc
P.O. Box 430
Port Orford, OR 97465

Kerrin Lee

May 24, 2010

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

Dear Mr. Ortmann:

I am a second generation commercial fisherman working out of Port Orford. I writing to you today because I am concerned about the requirement for the Council to find 3mt more of yelloweye to cover our fishing this year.

I have been moved into 20 fathoms for nearshore fishing. This has reduced my opportunity to catch china, copper, and quillback rockfish. But I'm making this work, because I understand it is important that we minimize bycatch of yelloweye. If you are trying to prevent yelloweye bycatch, I am confused about why you continue to allow recreation fishermen to fish out to 40 fathoms? It seems clear to me that you could move recreation fishermen into 20fathoms and have considerable savings of yelloweye bycatch. I propose you consider this change to find your necessary savings of yelloweye bycatch. You could also extend the 20fathom line north of our region.

I believe the commercial fishermen have taken a big hit over the years on this yelloweye issue and I do not support any further gear restrictions for the commercial fleet. Let's share this new problem with all of the fishermen who encounter yelloweye – not just nearshore commercial fishermen.

Nearshore fishermen do an excellent job of handling bycatch of all species. This is our job, and our livelihood, and we try to take care of and protect our resource.

Sincerely,

Jeff Miles

Jeff Miles F/V TOP G-w



JIM MARTIN
WEST COAST REGIONAL DIRECTOR
THE RECREATIONAL FISHING ALLIANCE
P.O. Box 2420
Fort Bragg, CA 95437
(707) 357-3422

NATIONAL OFFICE:
PO Box 3080
NEW GRETN NJ 08224
(888) 564-6732

Wednesday, May 26, 2010

To: Mr. Dave Ortmann, Chairman
Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101
Portland, Oregon 97220-1384
Phone: 503-820-2280 Toll Free: 1-866-806-7204 Fax: 503-820-2299
Email: pfmc.comments@noaa.gov

Dear Chairman Ortmann and members of the Council,

It is our understanding that a recent court decision instigated by the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) has resulted in a court-ordered management decision to reduce the yelloweye rockfish coastwide optimum yield (OY) from 17 to 14 metric tons (mt) this year.

Regarding inseason adjustments, we urge the Council to consider the extremely negative social and economic impacts already occurring in the west coast fisheries because of efforts to reduce bycatch mortality for this species.

For example, on the northern California coast, from Point Arena to Fort Bragg and Shelter Cove, recreational rockfishing seasons have been reduced to a mere 90 days, even though the retention of yelloweye is prohibited in this fishery. Weather further reduces the actual fishing days by 50% on average.

It is strange that the NRDC is pursuing these single-species management measures through the courts at the same time they have been advocating "ecosystem management" that would presumably move beyond a dependence on MSY-OY management and fishery-dependent data.

We recognize the importance of research and experiments with innovative fishing gear to improve performance and reduce bycatch mortality. Therefore we urge the Council to continue to allocate some portion of the yelloweye OY to exempted fishing permits (EFPs) and scientific research or we will never get out of the "box" constraining our fisheries. If reductions are made in the EFP portion of the scorecard, we support consolidating these yelloweye allocations to those EFPs that show the most promise for creating new ways to fish without impacting yelloweye rockfish. In particular, the

Oregon Recreational Fishing Alliance EFP for targeting yellowtail rockfish has produced useful data, attracted state agency support and shows every indication of proving out a gear type to target underfished species while reducing yelloweye rockfish impacts to nearly zero mt.

California is in the process of permanently setting aside areas of the state's waters out to 3 miles to close it from all groundfish fisheries through its Marine Life Protection Act initiative. Up to 40% of the hard bottom rockfishing grounds have been closed to fishing from the Point Conception to Point Arena in state waters as of May 1st, 2010. The portion of the yelloweye biomass residing in these new closed areas needs to be estimated and credited to California's portion of the bycatch scorecard.

The Council further needs to assign the Scientific and Statistical Committee to estimate the amount of yelloweye habitat set aside through the trawl and non-trawl RCAs.

Recreational anglers in northern California have made tremendous efforts to reduce bycatch mortality for yelloweye by distributing hundreds of rockfish descenders that improve their survival rate, and a new CRFS form asks each angler if they used these devices. This should be factored in to the Council's decision.

Ultimately, the National Marine Fisheries Service, working with the Council, industry and affected communities, need to demonstrate to the Courts that the management of the Pacific coast groundfish fishery, even at a yelloweye rockfish OY of 17 mt, is rebuilding consistent with the Magnuson-Stevens Act. Immediate action needs to be taken to prevent the ongoing destruction of small coastal fishing communities that we are now undergoing. We are losing our infrastructure and there is great pressure on local businesses in our harbors to abandon fishing businesses altogether. Non-fishing businesses dependent on tourism will also suffer in small ports in the Pacific Northwest. We do not believe this is the best economic use of our nation's marine resources, which the Magnuson-Stevens Act also requires.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Martin". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Jim Martin
West Coast Regional Director
The Recreational Fishing Alliance

May 24, 2010

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

Dear Mr. Ortmann:

I am writing to express my concern about the new yelloweye management requirement to reduce 3mt of by-catch. While I understand the necessity of finding more yelloweye savings, I am concerned that the fixed-gear fleet at Port Orford can't sustain additional restrictions.

Would it be possible to find the required yelloweye by-catch savings by moving the other nearshore fishermen – the recreation fleet – in to 20 fathoms which is where the commercial fleet fishes in our region? The Council imposed the 20 fathom line on the commercial fleet to reduce yelloweye by-catch and by all accounts it's working. Extending the line to other users could be a good way to reduce additional by-catch.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dave Ortmann", followed by a long horizontal flourish.