

Example of the 38 postcards received as supplemental public comment:

LITTLE FISH BIG DEAL



Dear Pacific Fishery Management Council,

Fishermen know the importance of baitfish to a productive ocean. That's why I am asking you to suspend developing any new fisheries that target forage species along the West Coast. Abundant populations of forage species feed the rest of the food web – including wild-caught tuna, salmon, and groundfish. Plenty of forage keeps the public's favorite seafood robust and healthy.

By acting now, the council can protect our important fisheries and the ecosystem that supports them. Suspending development of new fisheries on non-managed forage species will protect the prey base without creating winners or losers. The council did just that when it put off-limits in 2006. Similarly, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council prohibited directed fishing for many key forage species with the strong support of commercial fishermen.

There is no reason to wait. Before allowing the lifeblood of a healthy ocean to seep away as low-grade feed overseas, let's make sure we've left enough bait in the water for the fishermen and coastal communities that depend on it.

Sincerely,

Signature

Print name