

**Alliance of Communities for Sustainable Fisheries**  
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**“Connecting Fishermen with their Communities”**

August 25, 2011

Mr. Dan Wolford  
Pacific Fishery Management Council  
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101  
Portland, Oregon 97220-1384

Dear Chair Wolford and Council Members,

Please accept these comments regarding the swordfish fishery from the Alliance of Communities for Sustainable Fisheries, a 501(c-3) organization representing fishing families from Port San Luis to Pillar Point Harbors in central California.

Each of the Harbor communities within the Alliance region is struggling to maintain its fishing heritage. Paramount to the success of that struggle is the ability to have diverse and valuable seafood products utilizing our infrastructure. West coast swordfish fishermen have undertaken many improvements to their gear and fishing practices that have made this one of the cleanest fisheries in the world and yet changes in regulations governing the swordfish fishery continue to curtail or eliminate the delivery of this seafood to our ports. There are only a few Drift Gill Net swordfishing operations left and it is highly likely that this fishery (and the wonderful product they deliver to our docks) will disappear in the near future without significant steps to improve the economic/regulatory framework they must operate under currently.

Swordfish is a prized seafood product, both by our residents as well as visitors to our communities, which also rely heavily on tourism. To enable the resumption of swordfish landings to our central coast ports, the Alliance requests that the Council create a process wherein recommendations are developed as to how to reinvigorate this fishing, including potential changes to regulations.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Sincerely,



Kathy Fosmark  
Co-Chair



Frank Emerson  
Co-Chair

Supporting Associations & Organizations

Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Association  
Ventura County Commercial Fishermen's Association  
Port San Luis Commercial Fishermen's Association  
Morro Bay Commercial Fishermen's Association