

Agenda Item G.4.d

Public Comment

March 2012

February 8, 20012

Dearest Commission,

Once again I have the unfortunate duty to defend my fishing rights from a misdirected Government. The lone fisherman is not the problem with our salmon stocks it is the commercialization of California's abundant resources that is the larger issue. The amount of water in our rivers is the driving force on low returns.

Our oceans have the capability to sustain a large salmon population. It was quite evident this year that the feed is there for healthy salmon stocks. This year sardine boats in Monterey Bay harvested millions of tons all to be made into fish food for Farmed Raised Salmon. How can we grow healthy populations when we take the bottom out of the food chain? The rivers have been transformed into drainage ditches to quench Southern California's thirst for the resource. These pumps are known to kill endangered species like green sturgeon not only salmon fry.

The commission seems to be directing favoritism to commercial anglers while limiting Sport Anglers to one fish. I personally know that last season one commercial boat with over a ton of salmon crashed into a channel marker in Bodega Harbor. This captain fell asleep after three days straight fishing what greed will do to some people. The channel marker has still not been fixed. It is quite easy to realize 2 fish vs. TONS of fish could cause a sharp decline in our salmon stocks.

The commission has failed to realize that by limiting our salmon season it will but added strain on struggling economy. Let me describe to you how it will work. If the limit is 1 fish I will only buy one tray of bait not the usual two. With the ever rising price of gas I am going to make less fishing trips to the coast "all that for 1 fish". Every year we plan a trip to Monterey, but not for 1 fish, the innkeepers and restaurants will thus have less revenue. Our economy is what you call Trickle Down and yes, fishermen contribute millions annually to the economy. Something should also be said to the amount of fuel that will be consumed for "1 fish" it will take more trips to get my fill of salmon with a 2 stroke motor this means more pollution. Many Party Boats will struggle; will customers be less likely to pay hundreds of dollars for "1 fish"?

Lastly, by making a 26 inch minimum size limit will cause the unnecessary death to thousands of salmon. I personally know how many shakers swam away upside down last year by making the size limit 24 inches. If the limit is only 1 fish I won't keep a 26 inch fish when there are 26 pounders out there. A two fish over 22 inches seems to be the best choice.

Many anglers gave up fishing when it takes such diligence to keep current with the ever changing fish and game laws. I personally was sent a packet pertaining to greenling but nothing on salmon. Something has to be changed, all anglers deserve to notify to all potential changes in season and limits. I close in saying "God put Fish here for Anglers to Fish for and Fishing is my Church..."

Sincerely,

Trevor John Vantrease

Bodega Bay Sport Fisherman