

## **F/V Top Gun**

Jeff Miles  
PO Box 424  
Port Orford, OR 97465  
541-332-1835

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

Dear Chairman Wolford:

I fish for blackcod, crab, tuna, nearshore rockfish and halibut out of Port Orford. I have fished for 35 years; I started commercial fishing with my dad on his boat.

I am concerned about the problem of discarding halibut when we blackcod fish. This discard problem isn't minor. Analysis from the Observer Program indicates thousands and thousands of pounds of halibut are discarded by blackcod fishermen each year. Responsible fishermen do not think discarding is acceptable. I believe we should consider options to the halibut derby fishery including a blackcod bycatch option similar to what is used for troll salmon bycatch of halibut.

Allowing bycatch of halibut in the blackcod fishery would not have any more impact on yellow eye rockfish because the halibut would be caught during normal fishing activities. When targeting halibut in the derby fishery the yellow eye bycatch rate is higher.

I encourage the Council to continue to analyze options to reduce discards in the halibut fishery and to improve opportunities for halibut retention. This is an important issue to many west coast fishermen.

Sincerely,

Jeff Miles, F/V Top Gun



## Port Orford Ocean Resource Team

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February 8, 2012

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

Dear Chairman Wolford:

I am writing on behalf of the Port Orford Ocean Resource Team (POORT) to express our support for continued analysis of options to provide a by-catch allowance of Pacific halibut in the fixed-gear fishery for sablefish within halibut area 2A. The fishing community of Port Orford, Oregon has a long history of participation in the Pacific halibut and fixed-gear sablefish fisheries. Management changes over time have diminished the opportunity for our fishermen to access the halibut fishery yet we still catch halibut in our directed sablefish fishery.

Since 2006 POORT has advocated making these changes for fixed-gear fishermen to reduce by-catch mortality and to better utilize valuable resources. We note that the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife presentation March 2011 (Agenda Item F.3.b) clearly outlines the issues and presents several options which would provide quota transfer under the Catch Sharing Plan to allow an incidental take of halibut. Again, we encourage you to continue with the process to analyze and select options for a by-catch allowance of halibut in the sablefish fishery.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment. If you have any questions about this important matter, please contact me at (541) 332-0627.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Leesa Cobb". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Leesa Cobb, Executive Director