

**Marine Interests Group
San Luis Obispo County**

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Item H.5 .d

Supplemental Public Comment 3

November 2010

October 27, 2010

Pacific Fishery Management Council

RE : Support for Community Fishing Associations with expanded accumulation limits for dedication to local landings (Item H.5)

At its October 27, 2010, meeting, the Marine Interests Group of San Luis Obispo County (MIG) unanimously supported actions to facilitate the development of Community Fishing Associations (CFAs).

Community fishing fleets need an opportunity to continue

- Groundfish activity is an important element that supports critical infrastructure (fuel, ice, buyers, processors, etc.) in coastal communities.
- Close linkages between fish stocks, fishermen, and fishing communities provide an enduring social structure for responsible stewardship.
- We are concerned that the consolidation of fishing activity as a result of catch shares could have significant downstream effects on local fishing communities, if unmitigated.
- The federal government has an obligation to address such socio-economic impacts of the catch shares program.

Catch shares need to provide immediate opportunities for CFAs

- CFAs offer an opportunity for resiliency for community fishing fleets.
- Current accumulation limits do not provide sufficient quota for CFAs to secure a sustainable level of activity.
- Proposals for CFAs that can demonstrate a legitimate public purpose and have the support and oversight of local government entities should have the opportunity to acquire 2 times the control limits for individual operators.

We urge the Council to expedite action on CFAs so that fishing communities will have the tools to respond proactively to the coming changes.

Marine Interests Group of San Luis Obispo County