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private recreational fisherman
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RE: Further Direction on 2024 Management Measures

I can sympathize with Sonke Mastrup's comment made in the MPA review call last Wednesday, that he had PTSD from the MLPA implementation process nearly 20 years ago. I was on the Board of the 11,000 member Coastside Fishing club for 7 years and President for 2 in the prior decade. While I am still a member, I have no official capacity any longer and do not represent them. I'm just another private recreational fisherman. Even for people with long experience in any profession, pursuit of any endeavor, etc. it never hurts to revisit the fundamentals. So I did a little homework. Here are a few excerpts from the CDFW website, the Fish and Game Commission's website and the PFMC website: The California Fish and Wildlife Strategic Vision document has 4 Goals each with a handful of supporting objectives: Goal 2: Highly Valued Programs and Quality Services DFG/F&GC will deliver programs that are valued by the public and services of the highest quality, and specifically will: Objective 3. Promote and support public outdoor recreation, hunting and fishing From the Fish & Game Commission's policy page Through statutory policy, the California Legislature has directed the Department of Fish and Game and the Fish and Game Commission to maintain diversified recreational uses of wildlife, including the sport of hunting. California's hunters and sport anglers have assisted in the management and wise use of fish and wildlife resources since before the inception of the Commission in 1870. Therefore, it is the policy of the Fish and Game Commission that: The Department shall emphasize programs that ensure and enhance hunting and fishing opportunities. These activities shall be integrated into all Department programs. In its review of federal, state and local plans, special plans and proposed projects to determine consistency with Commission policy and the goals and objectives of the Department's management plans and programs, and in meeting its responsibilities as trustee for the State's fish and wildlife resources, the Department shall establish the goal of preventing loss of hunting and sport fishing opportunities. PFMC – oddly enough I couldn't find a 'mission statement' or something like that. There is extensive procedural descriptions. The closest thing I could find was: Who we are and what we do The Pacific Fishery Management Council is one of eight regional fishery management councils established by the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976. We recommend fishery management measures in the Federal waters off Washington, Oregon, and California. However, one of the key facets of the Magnuson-Stevens act is about maintaining "maximum sustainable yield". Now on to my comments: Recreational consumptive users (fishermen/women in this case) harvest salmon. However, we are the single best stewards of the resource. We are not buffalo hunters looking to catch the last salmon. I say that because unlike the various agencies, commercial fisherman, guides, etc.; we are one of the two constituencies (the other being the tribes) not being paid to participate in this fishery. We are spending our limited discretionary funds, supporting the businesses that cater to the recreational fisherman, on a pursuit we love that makes no economic sense. (I never let my wife calculate the cost per pound of what I've been able to bring to the table.) Given that the models have established a post season escapement that exceeds the prescribed minimum (213K fish on a range of 120k-180K) offers the chance for a limited salmon season. The members of the Council, the Salmon Advisory Sub Panel, NMFS, and CDFW have a responsibility to follow their stated policy and work together towards that goal.