



Attachment 1

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

October 28, 1999

The Honorable William M. Daley
Secretary, U.S. Department of Commerce
14th Street and Constitution Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Secretary Daley:

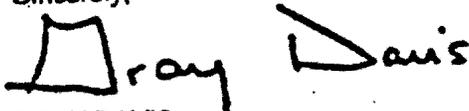
I am formally requesting that you declare a federal disaster in the West Coast groundfish fishery in order to provide financial relief to the fishing and fish processing families that will be decimated by the impending fishery management measures to protect West Coast groundfish stocks.

Thousands of fishermen and a like number of fish plant workers in California will be affected by the impending regulations. Recreational fishermen and the businesses that cater to them are also expected to suffer significant impacts. The economic consequences to coastal communities will be in the millions of dollars annually, and can be expected to continue for years to come as the groundfish stocks begin to rebuild and the fishermen are precluded from harvesting them. An economic analysis of the actual impacts of the proposed regulations will follow from the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC).

Both the Magnuson-Stevens and Interjurisdictional Fisheries acts provide for federal financial relief to the affected individuals and communities in the event of a fishery disaster (see sections 312 and 308 of the respective acts). The continuing adverse environment occupied by West Coast groundfish (and some salmon) stocks since the late 1970's clearly qualifies in this regard, and financial assistance from the federal government to the affected fishermen, fish processing families, and associated industries is justified pursuant to federal law. Data are available from the NMFS to support the view that the environment, not the fishermen, is the primary cause of our current situation.

A declaration of fishery disaster is the first step in the process of providing disaster relief to our affected communities. I appreciate your attention to this matter. If I can be of further assistance, please contact Mr. Robert Highl, Director of the California Department of Fish and Game at (916) 653-7667 or call Mr. Greg Garcia of my Washington D.C. office at (202) 624-5270.

Sincerely,


GRAY DAVIS

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