



CAITO FISHERIES, INC.

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March 1, 2011

The Honorable Mike Thompson
1st District
119 Cannon Office Building
Washington DC 20510

Dear Congressman Thompson:

I just want to keep you informed on what is going on with the Catch Share Program. There has already been a significant impact for all affected by the program. During the months of January and February, 2010, Caito Fisheries bought 550,329 pounds of trawl groundfish at our ports in Fort Bragg, San Francisco and Eureka, with an ex vessel value of \$334,618. Our payroll for our employees during that time was \$224,577. So far this year, Caito Fisheries has bought **ZERO** pounds of trawl groundfish. The local restaurants and stores we service no longer have local fish to serve or sell, as all the product we are supplying is imported from Canada, other countries, or farmed. As a whole, the west coast industry has only harvested to date 43% of what what was harvested last year. Therefore, we have had no trawl groundfish product to sell, the boat owners have received no monies for trawl groundfish, and our 75 employees have not had any work to do with the trawl groundfish processing.

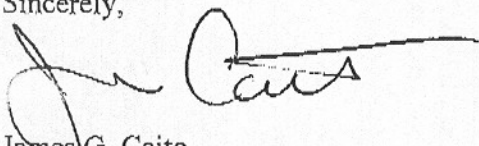
All the businesses in our coastal communities are being hit hard by this program. Here in Fort Bragg, our only fuel dock has shut down and our only ice plant is being subsidized by the Trawl fleet through AT&T trans-ocean cable funds. No one knows for how long it will continue to be subsidized; when it does close down, there will be no ice for the salmon fleet and no ice for crab processing. So, again, there will be more jobs lost. The ice plant in San Francisco has already closed down. Boats in San Francisco will have to go to Half Moon Bay or Bodega to get ice. This program is a real threat to all the coastal community infrastructures that are already struggling.

Just like the BuyBack Program, California is going to be the big loser again. Several permit owners have already leased their quotas to vessels in Oregon and Washington. The way I see it, Caito Fisheries will be lucky to buy one-third of the trawl groundfish as we did last year. It will not take long before we start closing down processing operations and laying off more employees.

The Catch Share Program is doing exactly what Dr. Lubchenco wants, which is to get the trawl fleet off the ocean. It's too bad that our Federal government is so willing to destroy yet another industry at a time when we need to be striving to keep jobs, not lose them. Many of those who will be affected are small family owned businesses. They are having problems with the Catch Share Program on the east coast.

It is time that our elected officials stand up to the feds and say "enough is enough", get rid of the Catch Share Program and save an industry that is on the brink of disaster.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James G. Caito". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

James G. Caito
Vice President

cc: Senator Barbara Boxer
Senator Dianne Feinstein
Assembly Member Wesley Chesbro
California State Senator Noreen Evans
Senator Mark Begich
Senator Scott Brown
Senator John Kerry
Congressman Sam Farr
Congressman Barney Frank
Congressman Doc Hastings
Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi
Congressman Peter DeFazio
Congresswoman Jackie Speier