March 12, 2012 DCTF Public Comment

My name is Ray Toste. I reside in Westport WA. I am President and G/M of W.D.C.F.A. 7 ½ years ago I started the process of developing 200 LE. 2 years later, 8 coastal trips later, 89 meetings later, all the ports of the west coast from Half Moon Bat to Neah Bay agreed that a 200 mile line at the states boundaries would solve and prevent many problems in the 3 states crab fisheries. The 15 voting Tri-State members approved that concept by consensus at a Tri-State meeting in Portland, Oregon in year? All trying to avoid the 1<sup>st</sup> place by doing limited entry, acquiring Interim Authority, doing pot limits, building 200 L.E. introducing pot tags, etc;

We are in a better place now than we once were. IF we are not careful and cautious, we could well find ourselves in a much worse place that we want to be. An UNREVERSABLE bad place!!! Little good, if any, will come from the controversy that this plan, as it stands, will cause.

With a lot more meeting and hard work by all involved "and there were many involved," IE; State managers, Department heads, State commissions, Industry leaders, but most of all Fishers. From all the Fisheries, not just crabbers. L.E. 200 became a reality.

LE 200 married with Interim Authority has a positive effect on our fisheries. To jeopardize that would be a travesty. It could well take us back to some bad, old times. It could well introduce new problems we were.

My biggest concern is not how little good will come from this plan, but how much bad may come of this Plan. It took a cooperative will and action to get us in a better place, and it will take that same kind of cooperation and action to keep us there.

Unilateral action by one state at the expense of others, does little to promote and maintain our present management authorities. Remember Interim Authority and LE 200 can be undone much quicker and easier that it took to build them.

Thank you.

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