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COMMISSION
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CALIF. FISH + GAMES commission

To whom it may concern:

Dear Sir/Madam,

My name is KEVIN MILL, age 77, and I've been a rock-fish fisherman for close to 40 years, mainly off Half Moon Bay area, CALIF.

The reason I write to you now is regarding the CANARY rockfish situation. It's still on the endangered species and we are not allowed to keep any of them. However, during the last 2 seasons, I've noticed they have really rebounded. Last year, for example, I catch on the average 2-3 per trip (all thrown back, of course). This year, however, I'm averaging 5-6 per trip. A week ago, I caught 10 of them, 3 of them are 1½ - 2 lb. size, and it's not just me. Everybody on the boat are catching them + throwing them back (and thrown back). The deck hand, Walle of the Queen of Hearts, worked the darndest to lower them back to the bottom with a special revivor gaget but he simply didn't have the time to take care of all the canarys caught. So a lot of them simply float away on the surface of the ocean, big and small, and die.

My question is: isn't it the time already to change the rule regarding catching + keeping canarys, say, to keep 2 above a certain size, say, 12 inches? If not, why not? How many more months of wasting away good fish do we — the fisherman — have to wait?

Please change the rules, ASAP. Thanks.

Yours sincerely,

Kevin Mill