

From: [REDACTED]
To: [FGC](#)
Subject: Bodega/Monterey Squid
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California Fish and Game Commission.
United States Coast Guard, Station Bodega Bay.

I want to point out what many people associated with the salmon economy think is a serious problem that developed both last year and this at Bodega Bay and Monterey Bay regarding purse seiners targeting squid. I am not a biologist and therefore will not speak to the impact on the squid resource; rather, I will narrow my comments to fairness and safety.

When the squid come inshore to spawn near Tomales Point they attract healthy numbers of salmon, both Chinook and Coho, that are preparing for their fall migration. And that in turn attracts commercial salmon fishermen, charter fishing boats, and large numbers of recreational salmon fishermen who go out in vessels ranging from kayaks to more traditional small fishing craft. To say that the squid are an essential component of the salmon economy is an understatement. The commercial skippers and deck hands, the charter captains and their deck hands, restaurants, hotels, gas stations and tackle shops all depend heavily on that salmon rush. When the purse seiners come in and overnight scoop out the squid, and who knows what else in their nets, the salmon fishing shuts down immediately. These squidders, some from out of state, are figuratively taking food off the plates of a lot of business people, and literally from the plates of countless numbers of recreational fishermen. The salmon fishers are quite limited in the area they can fish and the purse seiners are not. The attitude of the seiners seems to be, "I'm going to get mine, Jack, and forget about you." They are fishing within 300 yards of the shore in among all the small boats that sometimes number more than one hundred. They should be limited to something like twenty or thirty fathoms and I am told there are plenty of squid a bit further off shore. As it is now, it is akin to driving a pickup truck down the aisle of a super market where everyone else is pushing a small cart.

That is the looming safety issue. The purse seiners are comparatively large ships that are unable to maneuver when they have their nets set, and small boats that are drift fishing or that cannot start an outboard quickly enough, risk being run over. And at some point a small private boater is going to get swamped by the large wake made when the ships are under full power. I have personally witnessed the "Invincible" roar through crowded waters forcing people to move to avoid being hit or swamped, and I have experienced her dangerous wake in my fifteen foot boat. Tempers have flared and someone is going to get hurt, either because they are angry over being physically threatened by the ships or because they are irate over the loss of the salmon fishing.

I urge the commission to act to separate the squid boats from the salmon fishermen in these small areas.

Guy Kilburn, Vallejo

