

I am writing in support of Dock Sales. This program started roughly 20 years ago and I believe it has been an overall benefit to the District and the Commercial fishermen taking part in the program.

There are problems and growing pains with most things in life. 20 years ago there were tens of people coming down when the program started. Now there are thousands of people coming down to the pier to buy from fishermen. This is great but brings its own problems.

The dock sales program overall should be very simple. A boat goes fishing and instead of selling wholesale they decide to take the time to sell direct to the ultimate consumer. The CA DFW even started a special license to allow this to happen. The **Fishermen's retail license**. This is a license to allow a Fisherman to sell their own catch without having to buy an expensive retail license. Dock sales should be run as the Fisherman's Retail License allows. Allow only fish caught by the same fishermen to sell that same fish directly to the ultimate consumer.

Some problems with the current dock sales program:

No enforcement.

Vessel's selling products not caught themselves.

Fishermen selling direct to wholesalers without paying any fees.

I believe the district has changed and is willing to enforce the dock sales provisions. Also the new draft eliminates sales direct to wholesalers. The last problem is fishermen selling product not caught themselves. It should be so simple but some people will try to take advantage of anything. It is simple just go fishing and decide if you want to sell your catch off the dock direct to consumers or sell wholesale. Most ports only allow the option of wholesale. The program is not to allow floating retail businesses to operate with no costs and no fees paid to the harbor. It is for the fisherman to get the most value out of their catch. I would like to suggest the following wording be added to the dock sales agreement to help stem any problems.

Any fish sold under dock sales permit shall be caught by the same permitted vessel and sold only to the ultimate consumer. Any fish previously landed may not be sold under dock sales permit. (CA DFW requires all fish to be landed before removal from vessel and previously landed fish would be a resale sale instead of direct sale to ultimate consumer)

This should ensure the spirit and intention of the dock sales is followed and will protect all legitimate fisherman trying to benefit correctly from the program. Please allow the dock sales program to continue with these few changes to protect the honest fishermen.

Thank you,

Porter McHenry