THE EDGE
big game
BIG GAME FISHING
FISHING JOURNAL

Anti-Fishing Environmental Groups Funded by PEW are Working With NOAA Behind Closed Doors to Bring Catch Shares to the Recreational Sector Sooner Than Ever Thought.

TO THE INDUSTRY:

Our November/December 2010 issue has been shipped and you will have it soon. Please read my editorial entitled, "PEW's New Publicity Campaign, We Are Your New Best Buds." You will find the new tact PEW and their funded groups have taken in their attack against sport fishing very interesting. Currently, PEW has been running ads in fishing magazines stating, "Help Stop Surface Longlining to Protect Recreational Fishing in the Gulf." The real problem in the Gulf is bottom longlining, but PEW conveniently left that out of the ad. I also reached out to NOAA and they informed us there are only a handful of longline vessels out of the 85 permitted longliners actually working the Gulf today. Why is PEW running these pointless ads in our recreational fishing magazines? It is an image re-building campaign that will eventually help PEW force their ideology on the recreational fisherman. The Big Game Fishing Journal is also running a full page ad in our coming issues that states, "PEW Funded Environmental Groups, a Greater Threat to Recreational Fishing Then Surface Longlining."

The Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) and their supporter, Dr. Jane Lubchenco, NOAA Administrator, has set the recreational catch shares wheels in motion through several clandestine meetings held this month in Florida and Wyoming. Lubchenco and the EDF are trying to divide the recreational sector into three types of fisheries, For Hire Charter, Head Boats, and Not For Hire recreational fishermen. Many feel this is a divide and conquer tactic.

Without input and a fight from our sport fishing industry, catch shares for recreational fishermen will become a reality sooner than you think. The purpose of catch shares is limiting access to the different fisheries, and total control. Let's not forget innovative funding for the enviro's cronies. What the sport fishing industry doesn't need in these troubled times is to have less people fishing, less fish that can be landed, and the enviros in the driver's seat setting fishery management policy and working with government regulators creating more and more anti-fishing legislation.

Lubchenco must be removed from NOAA and we must take back our sport from the environmental "business" community. Without the right to fish, without the ability to keep your catch, we don't need boats, motors, magazines or any of the tackle and equipment used in our great sport.

You will never see a PEW ad in The Big Game Fishing Journal. There are some things far more important than money. Things are happening fast and we are in the fight of our lives. Please keep informed, the success of your businesses depend on it. A major industry effort will begin soon and we will keep you posted.

Capt. Len Belcaro

Publisher Big Game Fishing Journal