

re: Joshua Holt and Kurt Ward
Criminal Case No. MCVK 04-60161 002

June 17, 2004

To:
Judge David Nelson
Superior Court
100 N. State St.
Ukiah, CA 95482

Dear Judge Nelson,

I believe you are due to sentence Joshua Holt and Kurt Ward for abalone poaching on Wednesday June 30, 2004.

Their crime of illegally taking 468 abalones for sale is theft from the people of California, and environmental devastation upon the area they took the abalone from. The area they cleaned out may take many years to recover.

Abalone populations are threatened to near extinction worldwide, and only doing fair in Northern California because of the ban on all commercial and breathing assisted diving as well as the strict limits and regulations set forth by the California Department of Fish and Game.

Joshua Holt and Kurt Ward were among the privileged few in our state who have been issued commercial fishing licenses. Because of the low manpower of DFG, our fishing regulations only work largely because of voluntary compliance by both commercial and sport fisherman. These two poachers have breached any form of trust and should denied the privilege of ever again engaging in commercial fishing of any kind.

I believe Joshua Holt and Kurt Ward made a plea bargain with the prosecutor for a two-year sentence for their criminal actions. I believe their crime against the people of California is very grave and that they should receive the full three-year sentence for which they are eligible, the maximum fine, forfeiture of all of their fishing equipment, and a lifetime ban from participation in commercial fishing. Under no circumstances should the deal they made with the Mendocino County prosecutor be reduced. I believe the maximum sentence the only fair one for their crime, and will serve as an example to deter others who want to plunder California's scarce resources.

Thank You,

Chris Grossman
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cc: Office of the District Attorney
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cc: Richard Stenback
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