

Agenda Item C.5.b
Attachment 2
March 2008

February 16, 2008

To: Pacific Fishery Management Council
Subject; Shallow-Set Long Line

My name is John Gibbs, I've been a commercial fisherman/boat owner for 33 years home ported in San Diego, Ca. My history of fishing includes hook & line rock cod, troll salmon, troll albacore, harpoon swordfish, drift gillnet swordfish, long line swordfish/tuna, purse seine of tunas and wet-fish.

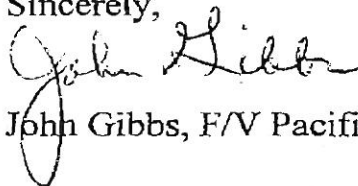
I began long lining for swordfish & tuna in 1986 and have several years of experience fishing deep and shallow-set long line off of California, Hawaii, and American Samoa.

The National Marine Fisheries Service has recognized the benefits of the shallow-set long line fishery as having less interaction and significantly lower mortality rates with protected resources than the current drift gillnet method.

I fully support the intent of the NMFS to make use of the under utilized highly migratory pelagic resources off of our west coast using shallow-set long line. To REESTABLISH this fishery will promote the infrastructure of our once thriving pelagic fishing industry which now relies mainly on foreign imports to supply California consumers with the same product.

I urge this Council to give a green light to NMFS in order to begin the process of designing a sustainable shallow-set long line fishery outside the EEZ of our west coast.

Sincerely,



John Gibbs, F/V Pacific Horizon