June 3, 2008

Mr. Donald K Hansen, Chairman
Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador PL Suite 101
Portland OR 97220-1384

RE: SUPPORT FOR THE ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM (A-3 IN THE ALTERNATIVES DOCUMENT FOR TRAWL IFQ) AND THE GEAR SWITCHING OPTION SHOULD THE PFMC ADOPT TRAWL INDIVIDUAL FISHING QUOTAS

Morro Bay is a small coastal harbor with a long and rich history in fishing. While we have many home ported fishing businesses here that range all over the coast, our landings that support local marine dependent infrastructure (fuel dock, ice plants, bait operations, marine mechanics and services) have consisted substantially of ground fish from abundant local grounds. We are committed to trying to retain our fishing heritage and businesses and are concerned that should a trawl Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) program be adopted, small ports like ours will see further erosion in landings and effort through market consolidation or unanticipated impacts.

We recognize that an individual quota program is likely to be implemented. We urge the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) to support the Adaptive Management Program in consideration of trawl IFQ to preserve flexibility in implementing IFQ's so as not to destroy small fishing harbor infrastructure. No matter how long we study the issues, unanticipated impacts will arise, and the adaptive management program is the best method for the PFMC to make a commitment to local communities.

In addition, a gear switching option will help the program produce significant economic and conservation benefits by enabling fishermen to maximize landing of target species while minimizing by catch of over fished/highly regulated species.

Please include adaptive management and gear switching in the PFMC's June preferred alternative because those components are vital to the trawl IFQ programs ability to meet important social, economic and ecological objectives.

Rick Algert
Harbor Director

RA/sl

cc: Mayor and City Council