



November 17, 2015

To: Dorothy Lowman, Chair

From: Peter Leipzig, Executive Director

The Fishermen's Marketing Association and others in the groundfish fishery, would like to invite the members of the Council, Advisory Committees, and staff to a field trip and an "open house" in the Astoria/Warrenton area in April prior to the Council meeting in Vancouver, WA. The date of this function will depend upon finally scheduling of Council related meetings at the April meeting.

Over the course of this field trip and the "open house", we will have displays of different trawl gears, a presentation on how trawl gear works, a tour of a fish processing facility, and trawl vessel tours. We would also like all participants to be our guest for a seafood lunch locally in Astoria. It has been many years since a Council meeting has occurred in a coastal community dependent on the ocean fishery managed by the Council; a one-day voluntary field trip such as this can serve as an opportunity to see important features of the current groundfish fishery.

It is our hope that this event will provide an opportunity for all to develop a better understanding of trawl gear and how it works, and will be helpful as the Council discusses possible changes to the trawl gear regulations. Active fishermen will be available to answer questions about trawl gear and to discuss how the proposed trawl gear changes would be beneficial to the industry.

We request the Council endorse this idea and task Council staff with identifying those Council Family members that wish to attend so that we may obtain a reliable head count for planning purposes well in advance of the April Council meeting.

I hope that this event can be both educational as well as a fun experience for the Council Family.