



111 SW Columbia Street, Suite 200
Portland, Oregon 97201
pewtrusts.org

June 23, 2016

Dorothy Lowman, Chair
Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 N.E. Ambassador Place, Suite 101
Portland, OR 97220-1384

RE: Agenda Item D.5: Deep-Set Buoy Gear and Federal Permit Update

Dear Chair Lowman and Members of the Council:

To date, the Pew Charitable Trusts has collected 9,238 public comments in support of clear guidance for permitting options to keep buoy gear authorization on track. This represents an addition of 1,292 comments since June 14, 2016.

Please include the attached petition as an electronic submission on the web site for the Council's supplemental briefing book. The petition itself is included here, along with a link to view the full list the names, cities and states of individual signers online: <https://goo.gl/A28LrY>

The Council may continue to receive additional comments in the days ahead.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Tara Brock
Senior Associate, U.S. Oceans, Pacific
The Pew Charitable Trusts
tbrock@pewtrusts.org

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Dorothy Lowman, Chair
Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 N.E. Ambassador Place, Suite 101
Portland, OR 97220-1384

RE: Agenda item F.3 - Deep-set Buoy Gear Amendment Scoping

Dear Chair Lowman and council members:

Thank you for your work to prioritize the authorization process for deep-set buoy gear to catch swordfish off the West Coast. I am writing to encourage you to keep authorization of this innovative fishing method on track in June by offering clear guidance on permitting options.

Deep-set buoy gear provides the Council an opportunity to substantially reduce the unwanted catch of marine animals such as whales, dolphins, sharks, and sea turtles. The authorization process for buoy gear gives decision-makers, fishermen and the public a chance to weigh options for making this gear a success for fishermen and a win for reducing the waste of marine life.

Thousands of Californians from across the state have consistently called for a full transition of the swordfish fishery to more sustainable fishing methods, and the Council has stated its own concerns about bycatch from drift gillnets.

Deep-set buoy gear can help address bycatch while ensuring an alternative that supports sustainable fisheries and local economies on the West Coast. Please ensure that deep-set buoy gear authorization stays on track at your June meeting.

Thank you for your consideration,

[We the undersigned]

To view all 9,238 signers, go to: <https://goo.gl/A28LrY>