

From: **Bill James** <HalibutBill@live.com>
Date: Sat, Sep 2, 2017 at 4:06 PM
Subject: Agenda Item E.7.b. Public Comment September 2017
To: "pfmc.comments" <pfmc.comments@noaa.gov>

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Vice Chair, Members of the Council:

My name is Bill James. I am the fisheries consultant for PSLCFA, a member of MBCFA, and a Nearshore Commercial Fishermen. I am also a advocate of the commercial small vessel single family businesses for the west coast.

Gear Switching Provision of the Trawl IQ should be discontinued because:

A). Large out of area vessels with 300-500 traps have devastated the large spawning Black Cod in the area below 36 degrees.

Prior to the IQ management a full range of sizes of Black Cod were being landed by local Fixed Gear and Open Access fishermen. Now the majority of the Black Cod being landed by the local MB longline boats are in the "extra small" range. The commercial longline boat out of PSL quit fishing Black Cod because of the unprofitability of catching a majority of extra small (1-3) pound fish.

In Conclusion: Gear switching should be abolished before Black Cod is serial depleted to the point of being declared overfished.

B). IQ programs gifts away a Public Trust Resource to a select few. Fish caught within 200 miles of the USA should be owned by the citizens of the USA and not given away.

In Conclusion: IQ programs should not be expanded to other fisheries in the future.

I wish to thank the Council for this opportunity to offer comment.

Sincerely,
Bill James