

October 12, 2017

Mr. Phil Anderson, Chairman  
Pacific Fishery Management Council  
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101  
Portland, OR 97220-1384

Dear Chairman Anderson and Council members,


This letter serves as an update to the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) on the progress of The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) - "Collaborative fishing to test pot gear for selective harvest of lingcod off of Washington and Oregon". NOAA has not issued the permit, so we have no results to report at this time. We look forward to reporting results from the testing once the permit is issued.

We request the Council encourage NOAA to issue the permit in a timely manner so that we can conduct testing in 2018. While the time available to test gear would be truncated, we will still be able to determine the effectiveness of the pot design and the ability to catch lingcod.

Sincerely,



**Jodie Toft**  
Acting Director of Marine Conservation/Senior Marine Ecologist  
The Nature Conservancy of Washington



**Gway Kirchner**  
Marine Fisheries Project Director  
The Nature Conservancy of Oregon