

From: **Tony Vultaggio** <[avctony@gmail.com](mailto:avctony@gmail.com)>  
Date: Mon, Nov 3, 2014 at 10:48 AM  
Subject: Agenda Item B.1.C general open comment  
To: [pmmc.comments@noaa.gov](mailto:pmmc.comments@noaa.gov)

Pacific Fishery Management Council  
7700 NE Ambassador Place Suite 101  
Portland OR 97220-1384

RE: Gear conflict between IFQ trap boats and Southern CA LE community.

Chair and Council Members:

My name is Tony Vultaggio and I would like to express my concern regarding the situation and fishing methods by our visiting IFQ trap boats.

I am a small boat owner/operator that currently fishes fixed gear for Sable fish out of my home port of Santa Barbara California. Over the past few years we have been able to cooperate with IFQ trap boats. In the last two months these boats have become very aggressive in their fishing methods. I have been forced out of my traditional fishing grounds due to unattended fishing gear. While these boats are off loading their catch they leave gear at sea. If I were to set my gear over theirs it would be very dangerous for me and my crew if we were to get tangled. I would also like to touch on the fact that in the pass they gave us room to work. This year they would see us working an area and move in on us as soon as we would leave to off load. When we return the following week there would be multiple sets of gear in that area.

I would also like to express concern regarding "Use of an area". Please look at the impact these boats have on a small area. Focusing on a Meta population during spawning season could leave a negative footprint on this fishery. I am grateful to be able to fish in this fishery and make an honest living. I look forward to many years of a well managed and balanced fishery.

Sincerely,

Captain Tony Vultaggio  
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