

To Whom it may Concern,

My name is Tim Calvert and I have made my living as a commercial fisherman in San Francisco for over 30 years. I own a "small" boat (under 40 ft) and throughout my career I have fished for salmon, crab, rockfish, blackcod, albacore, and herring. Prior to the RCA, I earned about one third of my annual income fishing a variety of rockfish with hook and line. I had cultivated a very good relationship with our local markets that paid well for a very good product. That is, I did not have to catch a lot of fish to earn a fair amount of money. At this time (late 1970's -80's-early 90's) I watched with horror as rockfish populations were being hammered by both drag nets and gill nets. These boats also weakened the markets by delivering large quantities of low quality fish. It was, quite frankly, a failure of fishery management to allow this to continue as long as it did. When rockfish was closed, I felt like I was being punished for someone else's crimes; not just the net fishermen who were cutting all of our throats, but also the fishery managers who watched and waited too long. The fact that the fishermen who were overfishing the resource were then "rewarded" with the best limited entry permits added insult to injury.

Many of the rockfish species are rebounding as a result of the strict closure. There is an opportunity to allow targeted fishing of abundant species (yellowtail and widow) using specifically designed gear (hook and line) which will avoid any by-catch. This is actually the way I fished before the RCA. Now my income comes primarily from salmon and crab. The closure of salmon the last several years meant that I had to depend solely on crab for my annual income. That is a precarious situation for small boat fishermen who are limited by rough weather and fewer traps. I have been able to support my family all these years by having a range of fishing opportunities throughout the year without having to depend on one season to make it financially for the year. The fact that there are management options that could alleviate some of the increasing desperation of fishing communities should be considered.

In conclusion, I urge you to adopt flexible management strategies, such as targeted fishing of under-utilized species, that will result in expanding the range of fishing opportunities for small, family-owned boats. This would benefit local fishermen, markets, and restaurants. Our fishing community has traditionally relied on fishing a variety of species spread out over the year's seasons which allowed more flexibility and opportunity to make our livings, supporting our families and preserving our communities and our culture.

Sincerely,

Tim Calvert  
F/V Sandra Dee, San Francisco

Christian Iversen  
ACE HIGH  
170 White Oak Drive  
Santa Rosa, CA 95409  
August 24, 2011

Mr. Mark Cedergreen, Chairman  
Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission  
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101  
Portland, OR 97220-1384

SUBJECT: GROUND FISH EXEMPTED FISHING PERMIT  
AGENDA ITEM G3

I am a 51 year-old, 6th generation Californian, commercial fisherman. Commercial fishing has been my career since I was 15 years old. I've tried to do a few other jobs but I am only happy when I'm out on the ocean fishing. Given our economic problems in the fishing industry here in California, subsistence in this industry is just about impossible for the small boat commercial fisherman.

The pelagic shelf rockfish species, yellowtail rockfish and widow rockfish, caught on vertical hook and line has been my subsistence fishery when there was no fishing. When this was taken away, I could not believe that any agency that had any idea how we live here on the California coast, would do that. When the apparent answer is that we are being starved out of our vocation that sounds a little paranoid. However, my ninety-four year old grandfather told me that "just because you are paranoid, doesn't mean they aren't after you!".

I support the Groundfish Exempted Fishing Permit submitted by the San Francisco Community Fishing Association. Approval of this EFP would be a welcome step in returning access to the historic fishing with hook and line drift fishing for underutilized species.

I own a 1947 wooden 39 foot commercial fishing boat. This EFP is well designed and would not do any more than put food on my table when there is no other fishing available. Beans and rice are fine and I've lived on that for many months at a time, but a nice fresh piece of fish that I caught myself is the meaning of life for me.

Sincerely,

Christian Iversen

August 22, 2011

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

**RE: Agenda Item G3 Exempted Fishing Permit**

Dear Council Members:

My name is John Mellor, and I'm a commercial fisherman from San Francisco. Fishing up and down the California coast has been my sole source of income for 33 years, so I have struggled through all of the upheaval and changes in the industry that's occurred in those times. I have managed to survive in the business thanks to my taking an adaptive attitude to the fisheries I have participated in, currently - Salmon, crab, blackcod, slope rockfish, herring, and nearshore rockfish. I also fish in Alaska for salmon. A diversity of available fisheries is essential since first and foremost, we are betting on Mother Nature. If you add politics, market fluctuations and public opinion, that's a pretty complicated mix.

The pelagic shelf rockfish species, yellowtail rockfish and widow rockfish, caught primarily with vertical hook and line, were a very important part of this 'fishing portfolio' for me for most of that 33 years, until it was made unavailable by the RCA .

My situation mirrors that of most other members of the fishing community, and it would be an injustice for the culture of west coast commercial fishermen to be starved out of existence when all the time there is an abundance of under-utilized fish that could be cleanly harvested with no by-catch, that are within easy reach.

I do believe that the Magnusson act specifies that under-utilized species should be made available if they can be managed correctly. Since these species primarily occur in the middle and upper part of the water column, it would be easy to avoid by catch of the protected demersal species on the bottom, with a specific gear design that would present the hooks high enough off the bottom. This could easily be documented with a well designed EFP, and would in no way be creating a new fishery since this manner of catching these fish was around many years prior to the creation of the RCA. If this fishery was to be made available I would certainly use it as sustainability depends on the availability of diverse fishing opportunities.

Thanks for your consideration,

John Mellor

John Mellor F/V High Hopes  
San Francisco, California

August 22, 2011

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

**RE: Agenda Item G3 Exempted Fishing Permit**

Dear Council Members:

I would like to voice my support for the experimental fishing permit (EFP) application for yellow tail rockfish. Shelf rockfish once played an important role in the lives of our coastal community fishermen.

Hook and line fishing for shelf rock fish has all but vanished in the last ten years. Current regulations make it impossible to justify targeting these underutilized and abundant fish. I am sure that with fishermen and scientists working together we can come up with a way to harvest the abundant stocks without impacting the canary or goldeneye populations.

Coastal community fishermen need to be able to target many different fish as a year unfolds and yellowtail was once a part of that portfolio.

Thank you for considering this EFP.

Josh Churchman

# San Francisco Community Fishing Association

*Direct from the boat. Fairtrade fish and crabs. Est. 2009*  
Larry J. Collins • President   Joe Garafolo • General Manager



Mr. Mark Cedergreen, Chairman  
Pacific Fisheries Management Council  
7700 NE Ambassador Pl. Suite 101  
Portland, OR 97220-1384

## **RE: Groundfish Exempted Fishing Permit, Agenda Item G3**

August 24, 2011,

Dear Chairman Cedergreen and Council Members,

I am writing in support of the Groundfish Exempted Fishing Permit submitted by the San Francisco Community Fishing Association (SFCFA)

The SFCFA is the first CFA formed on the West Coast as allowed by the Magnuson-Stevens Act. The make-up of our CFA reflects the make-up of the family owned small boat portfolio fleet in all fishing communities on the West Coast. We have been formed for about a year. Hopefully, in time, every fishing community will form its own CFA. The difference between a CFA and a local association is that a CFA can hold fish quota in trust for the community. That is an important distinction.

Approval of the EFP under consideration would be the first step in returning our access to our historic fishing grounds with hook and line drift fishing for underutilized species. As "portfolio" fishermen when we lose access to one of our fisheries, such as salmon, or have a bad crab season, it becomes increasingly important that we maintain our historic access. Our style of fishing is to fish the most abundant species, not to specialize in one fishery which puts more pressure on what could be weaker stocks. This is a more environmentally wholesome way of fishing and makes more economic sense for our small boat fleet. Since 90% of the fleet on the West Coast could be thus described, this EFP demands a very serious look.

We have the support of the two main National Marine Sanctuaries in our area. I hope we will receive the Council's support as well.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Larry Collins', written in a cursive style.

Larry Collins,  
President, SFCFA

PRBO Conservation Science  
3820 Cypress Drive, #11  
Petaluma, CA 94954  
707-781-2555  
www.prbo.org



prbo

October 11, 2011

Mr. Mark Cedergreen, Chairman  
Pacific Fisheries Management Council  
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101  
Portland, Oregon, 97220-1384

Dear Mr. Chairman,

I am writing on behalf of PRBO Conservation Science (PRBO) to express our support for the Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) for shelf rockfish proposed by the San Francisco Fishermen's Cooperative (SFFC). PRBO Conservation Science supports this EFP because it will help determine if midwater rockfish can be sustainably harvested with vertical hook and line.

The EFP, if granted, will allow local San Francisco fishermen to test a selective vertical-gear fishing technique and implement a monitoring program to collect fisheries data from the catch. The methods and research plan have been developed by scientists from the National Marine Fisheries Service and are in accordance with guidelines established by the Groundfish Management Team for overfished species. The proposed method will target populations of mid-water rockfish, and we expect that it will have minimal impact on sensitive habitats and species in the region.

PRBO supports sustainable fishing practices including the use of low impact gear in local ports and coastal communities. SFFC's vision is to develop a community-owned and integrated seafood business that ensures the economic viability of the area's fleet of family owned fisheries operations. If the proposed fishing activity proves to be "clean," this type of sustainable fishing should be promoted.

PRBO's 140 staff scientists are dedicated to conserving wildlife and ecosystems through innovative scientific research and outreach on land and at sea. PRBO has been conducting marine ecology research in the North Pacific for over 40 years. Our efforts include in-depth studies of the ecology of the greater Gulf of the Farallones and the effects of rockfish on the long-term breeding success of seabirds nesting on the Farallon Island where we work in partnership with NOAA National Marine Sanctuaries and the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

If you would like more information, please contact our Jaime Jahncke, PhD, California Current Director, at 707-781-2555, ext 335. Thank you for your consideration of our letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'EMC', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ellie M. Cohen  
President and CEO

cc: Dr. Jaime Jahncke