Dear Chairman Wolford and Council Members:

The Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen’s Associations (PCFFA), representing working men and women in the West Coast commercial fishing fleet requests your approval for the above-entitled application for an exempted fishery permit to test the potential for a new commercial drift gear configuration to harvest currently underutilized rockfish species (yellowtail) while avoiding overfished stocks to enhance optimum yield in the mixed stock open access groundfish fishery off California.

PCFFA further supports the application submitted by Ms. Kathy Fosmark for another method of pursuing rockfish with hook-and-line gear within the Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA), also with the intent of targeting abundant and currently underutilized rockfish stocks while avoiding species of concern.

It is important that both of these applications be approved to test the viability of each. PCFFA cannot emphasize enough the importance of reestablishing access for hook-and-line fisheries, both commercial and recreational, within the RCA, for the take of underutilized rockfish species. These fish are important for maintaining the “portfolio” fisheries most fishing men and women are engaged in within our coastal fishing communities.

PCFFA strongly supports these EFP permits and urges their immediate approval by the PFMC.

Sincerely,

W.F. “Zeke” Grader, Jr.
Executive Director

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Please Respond to:

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