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**FISHING VESSEL OWNERS' ASSOCIATION  
INCORPORATED**

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April 2, 2003

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PFMC

Dr. Donald McIsaac  
Executive Director  
Pacific Fishery Management Council  
7700 N.E. Ambassador Pl. #200  
Portland, OR 97220-1384

RE: Regulatory Comment on Fathom Curves

Dear Dr. McIsaac:

The members of the Fishing Vessel Owners' Association request that you consider a change in three coordinates that make up the 100 fathom line off the coast of Washington.

We request a change in point number (3) to 48° 08.8/125° 39.3. Beginning in mid-July, the Sablefish come up over the grounds associated with this point. The grounds are the most productive grounds for the North Coast longline fleet and this small change will allow the fleet to better adjust for tidal consideration. The tide tends to come from the northwest. The current coordinates will make it very difficult to fish this area that is historically an important spot.

Additionally, we request a change at points 8 and 9 to 47° 57.6/125° 31.3 and 48° 00.2/125° 26.4 respectively for similar reasons as stated above.

Sincerely,



Eric Olsen  
President

EO:cmb