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Proposal to exempt Pot gear from 100 fa Line

PFMC

I propose to exempt pot/trap fisheries for Sablefish from the 100 fathom line that is set up for Rockfish protection. The reason being is that pots/traps are very selective and have very little incidence of bycatch of any species including protected Rockfish .(Yellow eye ,Canary ,etc.) The observer data demonstrates this. I propose to let pots fish any depth and this can be monitored with the vms or just exempt them altogether from VMS. A the very least you could let the pots go into the 75 fathom line that is already established for the Draggers. If there are concerns to the south you could make the allowance for the North area only.

This would not be a large undertaking as there are relatively few pot /trap permits(28?)  
Again there is no valid argument to deny this proposal.

Thank you



Lawrence Demmert