

Ms. Dorothy Lowman, Chair
Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101
Portland, Oregon 97220

Re: Agenda Item E.5 Groundfish Essential Fish Habitat Amendment Scoping, Including Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) and Area Adjustments

Dear Chair Lowman and Council Members,

I write to you on behalf of Hayes Street Grill, a seafood restaurant in San Francisco's Performing Arts District. Our concept was inspired by the old, iconic grills of San Francisco, but we sought to make our mark by serving the freshest ingredients that we could find. All of our produce is locally sourced, our meats and dairy come from small producers and we serve only sustainable seafood. After my experiences as a journalist, restaurant critic and restaurateur, I have come to recognize and appreciate the diversity of culinary methodologies that exist. San Francisco has an eclectic food scene, and I am proud that Hayes Street Grill can be a part of it. Nevertheless, despite any differences in technique or cuisine, food is central to the way that all of us live our lives. We therefore have a collective responsibility to treat the land and sea, from which our food comes, with caution and consideration for the future.

We applaud the Council for the effort it has put forth toward habitat protection. The conclusion of its 5-year review for groundfish Essential Fish Habitat is a momentous accomplishment, and we encourage the Council to continue moving forward. At its upcoming April meeting, it is important for the Council to complete the scoping process for its proposed Groundfish Fishery Management Plan amendment, while considering a broad set of available solutions. We ask the Council to consider the following measures:

- Precautionary closure to bottom trawling of the deepwater areas (beyond 3500 meters) off California south of the Mendocino Ridge;
- Adoption of a coast-wide scope for potential changes to the groundfish management plan;
- Potential designation of new Essential Fish Habitat;
- Potential creation of new, or adjustment of current, EFH Conservation Areas;
- Inclusion of the contents of all remaining Stakeholder Proposals as potential alternatives;
- Adjusting area-based management measures like the Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) to improve fishing while also protecting habitat;
- Measures to address bottom contact by midwater trawl fishing gear;
- Identifying key prey species of groundfish.

Now that the Council has newfound support and authority, we believe that heightened vigilance is necessary when considering legislation for habitat protection. We hope that the Council will put an end to destructive practices, like bottom trawling, and will strengthen provisions for ocean conservation. With each shipment of fresh-caught seafood that enters our kitchen, we can rest assured knowing that the ocean's fisheries are being managed thoughtfully and sustainably. Thank you for your work in protecting key ocean habitats.

Sincerely,
Patricia Unterman, owner
Hayes Street Grill
320 Hayes Street
San Francisco, CA 94115