

Agenda Item H.3.b
Supplemental Public Comment
September 2015

From: **kenyon hensel** <kenyonhensel@gmail.com>
Date: Sun, Aug 30, 2015 at 1:36 PM
Subject: Sept pfmc meeting ground fish item (11.3 final stock assessments)
To: pfmc.comments@noaa.gov

from Kenyon Hensel, I have been commercial fishing black rock fish outside of Crescent City CA since 1983, The last two years have seen a noticeable increase in numbers and size of our local stocks. As this area has some of the historically highest landing of black rock fish in the state, this increase must reflect a very strong recruitment over many years. For, not only are we seeing an increase in catch per unit effort, but also a strong showing of many varied sizes of individual black rock fish including 5 to 7 lb fish. after attending the black rock fish assessment star panel, and hearing their concerns about the lack of female fish in their samples, I have some possible explanations. If samples where taken from our landings over the past 15 years, they may reflect the fact that we have targeted live fish from as shallow water as possible. In my experience of catching and filleting thousands of black rock fish, the females of spawning age come from deeper waters and may not be as prevalent in shallow water catches. I have seen plenty of female black rock fish in the fish I fillet. I also fish dead fish from deeper waters and in the winter, and over the years have seen no lack of gravid fish in my catches. Please do not reduce our catches of this vital species without taking more time to integrating this information into the stock assessment.