

April 12, 2016

RECEIVED

Chuck Tracy
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101
Portland, Oregon 97220-1384
RE: Modifications for Fishing Gear

APR 26 2016

PFMC

Dear Mr. Tracy,

My name is Julia Peng and I am writing on behalf of the issue of overfishing.

Overfishing has become an increasingly severe issue over the years. Each year, the United States alone produces a total of two billion pounds of bycatch while citizens of countries elsewhere struggle to meet their daily protein intake needs. Over one billion people worldwide depend on seafood as their main source protein. Without access to fish, food security is severely crippled.

Unsustainable fishing is a complex issue that cannot be solved by a single person's decision to stop eating seafood: the government must take action in implementing stricter regulations on fisheries. Through modifications in commercial fishing gear, this problem can be mitigated. I am writing to encourage the Pacific Fishery Management Council to oversee gear modifications on commercial fishing vessels, as they have been shown to significantly curb the impacts of overfishing. Some specific gear modifications I have researched include bycatch reduction devices, weak hooks, and circle hooks, which all aim to reduce the rate of bycatch on commercial vessels.

Implementation of gear modifications does come with challenges, including cooperation and communication between fishery management, scientists, and fishermen. I realize fishery science and management is an incredibly nuanced area of study, and implementing gear modifications is not a straightforward task.

However, I do believe the benefits to gear modifications are well worth overcoming the challenges. It is a step we can take towards a healthier future for our oceans.

Thank you for your time in considering this matter.

Sincerely,



Julia Peng