

April 21, 2016

To: Pacific Fisheries Management
Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place
Ste 101
Portland, OR 97220-1384

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Joan Bennett
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PFMC

Dear Fisheries Representative,

I am an avid angler and catch and eat fish. I also do catch + release when appropriate to the species of fish I catch.

I do fishing research, as a Volunteer, with CA Collaborative Fisheries Research Program.

I care about our Rockfish. It hurts me when I see a big beautiful Canary Rockfish caught + thrown away since we are not "yet" allowed to keep them.

I have personally made a fish decompression unit to return Canary Rockfish back to their depth. This takes 30 seconds (taking fish off my barbless hook, attaching my unit, dropping them down to 100 feet). But, I can't get other Anglers fish usually to save ~~on~~ each one.

* I recommend allowing each angler to keep one canary Rockfish in their limit of ~~10~~ TEN Rockfish. This will save the Canary from being wasted AND save another Rockfish that would take its place in the TEN total.

I see many Canary's caught - we keep moving trying not to catch them. I don't feel they are still endangered. Thank you.

In service to others,

Joan Bennett

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Douglas Kaber** <dkaber@kaberlaw.com>

Date: Thu, May 26, 2016 at 10:14 PM

Subject: Groundfish - California Proposed Overfished Species Hotspot Area

To: "pfmtc.comments@noaa.gov" <pfmtc.comments@noaa.gov>

To the Council:

I urge the council to exclude Devil's Gate Rock from the proposed closure areas in California's Overfished Species Hotspot areas. It is the only area for many, many miles that has launch access for kayakers, and if it closes there is no where else like it that is accessible to kayak anglers for drive times measured in hours. The area gets extremely light pressure, being 25 miles south of Eureka and on the other side of a Marine Protected Area, south of Cape Mendocino. There are productive groundfish areas to the north of Cape Mendocino that are much more popular with the Eureka sport fleet. It is mainly kayakers who fish Devil's Gate Rock, braving the launch through the surf and rocks to access the grounds. Most days, the ocean is too rough to launch, requiring us to watch the buoy reports, forecasts and winds to look for a window of opportunity. The proposed closure area is relatively shallow, most of it inside 10 fathoms and all of it inside 20 fathoms. I've polled dozens of kayakers who have fished the area over years. We simply don't encounter yelloweye rockfish there.

With such light pressure, very few incidents of incidental take of yelloweye rockfish, and relatively few accessible days, the closure of the proposed area near Devil's Gate Rock will not serve to reduce the incidental take of many, if any, yelloweye rockfish. The proposed closure does serve to remove scrutiny from other areas that might be more popular with industry from Eureka and Shelter Cove where yelloweye rockfish are encountered with more frequency, so it is easy to see why it was proposed given that there were not any kayak anglers in the room at the time. Before any closure in the area, and especially before undertaking a closure that impacts kayak anglers so negatively while not really affecting any other group, there should be actual data collected to discover where yelloweye rockfish are encountered in greater numbers. Also, in keeping with the other proposed hotspot closure areas, any closure should be confined to areas beyond 20 fathoms so that areas that are proposed to open under the new proposed all-depth seasons will be protected.

This proposed hotspot closure does not accomplish the goal of protecting overfished species and it rests solely on the backs of the local kayak angling community. Closing an area that would not serve the stated purpose of the closure and only affects a small number of fishermen, yet affects those fishermen severely, would be abhorrent.

Thank you for your consideration.

Douglas Kaber

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