



Humboldt Area Saltwater Anglers Inc.

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FEIN #61-1575751

June 14, 2016

Pacific Fishery Management Council
Dorothy Lowman, Chair
7700NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101
Portland, Oregon 97220-1384

RE: Comments on proposed 2017-18 Northern Management Area recreational groundfish Preferred Management Measures (PPM)

Dear Ms. Lowman:

The Humboldt Area Saltwater Anglers (HASA) has reviewed and discussed the 2017-2018 California recreational groundfish season structure alternatives for the Northern Management Area as described in the 2017-18 SPEX Analysis (Agenda Item G.4).

We appreciate the effort that CDFW and NOAA staff have conducted in developing and evaluating the different groundfish management alternatives. It is our understanding that CDFW proposes to recommend the following at the June PFMC meeting: 1) to support Alternative 3 for the Preferred Management Measures for California Northern Management Area, and 2) not to implement the OFS hotspot closures. HASA supports CDFW on this approach, including inseason management action (depth reduction) if yelloweye rockfish bycatch reduction is needed, and also supports Alternative 3 exempting petrale sole and starry flounder from the recreational groundfish season and depth restrictions.

HASA has been very active in helping reduce yelloweye and canary rockfish bycatch in northern California over the past 8 years, and one of our top priorities continues to be educating anglers on how to avoid yelloweye rockfish bycatch. We will continue our yelloweye rockfish bycatch reduction efforts in the coming years by conducting the following:

- Continuing to distribute free fish descender devices (100 already given away in 2016) and encourage anglers to use them for all released rockfish;
- Distribute the CDFW yelloweye rockfish identification flyer PDF to our members, e-mail distribution list, website, and Humboldt Tuna Club board; and
- Encourage anglers to relocate their fishing location if a yelloweye rockfish is caught to reduce the risk of additional yelloweye rockfish catch.

We hope that these expanded voluntary actions to reduce yelloweye bycatch will preclude the need to implement inseason management action for the Northern Management Area. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the 2017-2018 Northern Management Area groundfish season structure, and do not hesitate to contact HASA if you would like any additional information.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott McBain". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Scott McBain, President
Humboldt Area Saltwater Anglers

cc: Ms. Joanna Grebel, California Department of Fish and Wildlife

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

From: **Cliff Hart** <cliffhart76@gmail.com>

Date: Tue, Jun 14, 2016 at 8:02 AM

Subject: Agenda Item G4

To: pmmc.comments@noaa.gov

Dear PFMC:

Please support the position of CDFW regarding management measures for the 2017/18 rockfish season. They have worked very hard with us anglers and I truly appreciate their efforts and hope you can support their recommendation.

Cliff Hart
[707-845-4106](tel:707-845-4106)