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Mr. Chairman and Council members,

I am writing about a mistake that was made regarding the apportionment of north/south sablefish for 2017/2018.

Please forgive me for not knowing enough about this and for probably getting some of the language wrong. I'm not very well versed in this area and just found out about the error, and today is the deadline to get a letter out.

In 2015, there was a new stock assessment done on coast wide sablefish. For a long time prior to this, the north/south split was 73.6%/26.4%. The biennial harvest specifications for 2017/2018 are now calling for the split to be 84.9%/15.1%. This was a shock to my system but after checking into this, I was told that the 15.1% is actually the percentage of the stock that lives below Pt. Conception and not the 36 degree line that is designated as the north/south line. The actual stock assessment for below 36 degrees is similar to what it has been for years.

This error would lower the southern sablefish apportionment by 40%. This would not only hurt my company but all the fishers below the 36 line. There are a lot of small boats that fish down there and rely on sablefish to make a living. It would be one thing if the stocks actually collapsed by 40% but that is not the case.

Please fix this error. There are many people's livelihoods that need this.

Thank you,

John Corbin