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November 2, 2017

Agenda Item F.8.b
Supplemental Public Comment 1
November 2017

Phil Anderson, Chair
Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101
Portland, Oregon 97220

Via Email: pfmc.comments@noaa.gov

RE: Agenda Item F.8 Preliminary Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) Approval for 2019-2020

Dear Chair Anderson and Members of the Council:

The Moss Landing Harbor District located on the Monterey Bay supports the issuance of the above mentioned EFP. This EFP represents an opportunity for our commercial small boat fishing community to access a healthy and marketable groundfish species, Chilipepper rockfish. This particular species has historically been one of the most important fish for commercial fishermen in California, especially along the central coast. Chilipepper stocks are healthy, and this EFP is intended to test and assess the feasibility of a new fishing technique (formerly known as fly gear) with smaller vessels that fish out of Monterey Bay. There are local markets for these fish, but the catch has been constrained by limits and access to fishing grounds (i.e. RCA).

The economic situation for many fishermen in our area has become increasingly dire. The last few seasons in California for salmon and Dungeness crab, our two most valuable fisheries, have been below average and they are no longer breaking even. As a community, we are struggling to keep our commercial fisheries and working waterfronts alive. This EFP will ease that struggle and allow fishermen the opportunity to contribute to retaining the viability of commercial fishing.

We appreciate the EFP as a mechanism for fishermen to innovate and try new things, while maintaining accountability through monitoring and reporting back on their efforts. This EFP represents a clear opportunity for the community to access a valuable and healthy stock in the waters off the central coast of California. We strongly urge your approval of this Preliminary Exempted Fishing Permit.

Sincerely,

Linda G. McIntyre
General Manager/Harbor Master

SERVING COMMERCIAL FISHING AND RECREATIONAL BOATING SINCE 1947

November 3, 2017

Phil Anderson, Chair
Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101
Portland, Oregon 97220

RE: Agenda Item F.8 Preliminary Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) Approval for 2019-2020


Dear Chair Anderson,

My name is Roger Whitney, I am a fish receiver/wholesaler operating out of Moss Landing harbor in central California. This EFP represents an opportunity for our community, and for my business to access and benefit from a healthy and marketable groundfish species, Chilipepper rockfish. Chilipepper have historically been one of the most important fish for commercial fishermen in California, especially along the central coast. Chilipepper stocks are healthy, and this EFP is intended to test and assess the feasibility of a new fishing technique (formerly known as fly gear) with smaller vessels who fish out of Monterey Bay. We have local markets for these fish, but have been constrained by catch limits (open access) and accessible fishing grounds (RCA).

Our economic situation has become increasingly dire. We no longer receive any rockcod. All we have at this point are California salmon and Dungeness crab. The last few seasons have been below average and we are no longer breaking even. Some fishermen participate in the tiered permit sablefish fishery, but in recent years that fishery has been very limited and not enough to support us. The port of Moss Landing has only 2-3 remaining buyers outside of the wetfish fishery, and less than 12 boats operating on a consistent basis. As a community, we are struggling to keep our commercial fisheries and working waterfronts alive.

I appreciate the EFP as a mechanism for fishermen to innovate and try new things, while maintain accountability through monitoring and reporting back on our efforts. This EFP represents a clear opportunity for our community to access a historically valuable and healthy stock in the waters off the central CA coast. On behalf of myself and the remaining fishermen who wish to fish groundfish out of Moss Landing, we strongly urge you to consider the proposal and give it your preliminary approval.

Respectfully,


Roger Whitney
Bay Fresh Seafoods
bayfreshseafoods@aol.com

[See next page for additional signatures]

Moss Landing Harbor Fishing Boats & Owners

F/V	MARGRET E/MASS LANDY	Owner	Jim Cunningham
F/V	KRAZY KATE Moss Landing	Owner	Frankie Cunningham
F/V	DEPUTY DAWG	Owner	J. J. Rold
F/V	SKAGIT	Owner	V. BALESTERI
F/V	MISS ANNIE	Owner	Shawn Van Dyke
F/V	FOUR DAUGHTERS	Owner	PHUC TAN HUYNH
F/V	BETICIA	Owner	W. D. B.
F/V	CARLEY DIANE	Owner	Rob Fesselson
F/V	CLIPPER III	Owner	Ray McDaniel
F/V	NEPHI	Owner	Ho A
F/V	MISS JENNY	Owner	Hong Van Vo
F/V	Tom Hart	Owner	F/V Charlie Noble
F/V	ALEX KENINDO	Owner	DOT DO
F/V		Owner	
F/V		Owner	
F/V		Owner	
F/V		Owner	
F/V		Owner	
F/V		Owner	
F/V		Owner	
F/V		Owner	

November 3, 2017

Phil Anderson, Chair
Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101
Portland, Oregon 97220

RE: Agenda Item F.8 Preliminary Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) Approval for 2019-2020

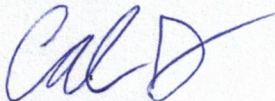
Dear Chair Anderson,

My name is Calder Deyerle, I am a second-generation commercial fisherman operating out of Moss Landing harbor. This EFP represents a unique opportunity for me to access a healthy and marketable groundfish species, Chilipepper rockfish. Chilipepper have historically been one of the most important fish for commercial fishermen in California, especially along the central coast. Chilipepper stocks are healthy, and this EFP is intended to test and assess the feasibility of fly gear with smaller vessels fishing around the Monterey Bay. I recently purchased a new fishing vessel, the FV Sea Harvester, with the hopes that I can continue to grow my business and diversify my fishing to create a more sustainable fishing operation in the face of a more rapidly changing ocean.

I am one of the youngest fishermen in the harbor, other than my 5-year-old son Miles. My family mostly participates in the tiered permit sablefish fishery, and in recent years this is the only viable fishery for a small-scale fisherman. I sell most of my fish to my father and uncles business Sea Harvest. They are one of the last remaining buyers in our harbor and the company's future is uncertain as they look to retire in the near future. As a community, we are struggling to keep our commercial fisheries and working waterfronts alive. This EFP is important to me because it represents an opportunity to not only keep my business afloat but carry on my family's legacy.

I strongly support this EFP as a way to explore more sustainable and viable fisheries for our local fishermen. This EFP, if successful, represents a unique opportunity for optimism and promise in the face of many hardships associated with this industry. I strongly encourage you to consider this application and give our working waterfront community the opportunity to create a more promising future for ourselves and generations to come.

Sincerely,



Calder Deyerle
F/V Sea Harvester
calderdeyerle@hotmail.com

November 3, 2017

Phil Anderson, Chair
Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101
Portland, Oregon 97220

RE: Agenda Item F.8 Preliminary Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) Approval for 2019-2020

Dear Chair Anderson,

My name is Jason Collins, I'm a commercial fisherman based in Santa Cruz, California. I am writing to support the proposed EFP for fishing Chilipepper rockfish with fly gear. As a commercial fishermen, I see an promising opportunity to target an abundant sustainable species that could create a much needed economic opportunity for myself and fishermen throughout Santa Cruz harbor. Chilipepper have historically been one of the most important fish for commercial fishermen in California, especially along the central coast. Chilipepper stocks are healthy, and this EFP is intended to test and assess the feasibility of a new fishing technique (formerly known as fly gear) with smaller vessels who fish out of Monterey Bay. We have local markets for these fish, but have been constrained by catch limits (open access) and accessible fishing grounds (RCA).

I see a great opportunity for providing our community with more local sustainable seafood. However, many of the fisheries our local fisherman participate in like Dungeness crab and King salmon have seen record low years which is forcing us to look into new economic opportunities for making ends meet. As a result we're looking for options to diversify. The port of Santa Cruz has only 1 remaining buyer, and less than 20 boats operating annually. This EFP is important for us because we want to be able to provide our community with a local sustainable fish, and create a new legacy of sustainable fishing in our region that we can pass on to future generations.

We appreciate this EFP as an opportunity for fishermen in our community to innovate, create new business opportunities, while using a scientific framework to assess the viability of our efforts both economically and ecologically. This EFP represents a clear opportunity for our community to access a valuable and healthy stock in the waters off the central CA coast. We strongly urge you to consider the proposal and give it your preliminary approval.

Regards,

Jason Collins
124 A Pine st.
Santa Cruz Ca, 95062
ratboycollins@gmail.com

November 3, 2017

Phil Anderson, Chair
Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101
Portland, Oregon 97220

RE: Agenda Item F.8 Preliminary Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) Approval for 2019-2020

Dear Chair Anderson,

My name is David Toriumi, I am a commercial fisherman operating out of Moss Landing harbor in central California. This EFP represents an opportunity for me to access a healthy and marketable groundfish species, Chilipepper rockfish. Chilipepper have historically been one of the most important fish for commercial fishermen in California, especially along the central coast. Chilipepper stocks are healthy, and this EFP is intended to test and assess the feasibility of a new fishing technique (formerly known as fly gear) with smaller vessels who fish out of Monterey Bay. We have local markets for these fish, but have been constrained by catch limits (open access) and accessible fishing grounds (RCA).

Our economic situation has become increasingly dire. The last few seasons for California salmon and Dungeness crab, our two most valuable fisheries, have been below average which has made it incredibly difficult to just break even. As a result I'm looking for options to diversify. The port of Moss Landing has only 2-3 remaining buyers outside of the wetfish fishery, and less than 12 boats operating annually. As a community, we are struggling to keep our commercial fisheries and working waterfronts alive. This EFP is important to me because I want to be able to provide our community with a local sustainable fish, and create a new legacy of sustainable fishing in our region that I can pass on to my kids.

I appreciate the EFP as an opportunity for fishermen to innovate and try new things, while maintain accountability through monitoring and reporting back on our efforts. This EFP represents a clear opportunity for our community to access a valuable and healthy stock in the waters off the central CA coast. I strongly urge you to consider the proposal and give it your preliminary approval.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Toriumi". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent "D" and "T".

David Toriumi
F/V Pioneer
(831)247-2648
dttoriumi@gmail.com



November 5, 2017

Phil Anderson, Chair
Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101
Portland, Oregon 97220

RE: Agenda Item F.8 Preliminary Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) Approval for 2019-2020

Dear Chair Anderson,

On behalf of Environmental Defense Fund (EDF), I am writing to express our support for the Monterey Bay EFP, which proposes to test trolled 'fly line gear' to target abundant midwater rockfish stocks off the central California coast. The project leads are utilizing local knowledge for a gear that was used during the 1980s, and is adapted from an EFP submitted by the late Steve Fosmark in 2009 that was approved but not executed.

EDF recognizes that a diversity of vessels, gears, and West Coast ports are needed for the long term success of the Pacific groundfish fishery, and for healthy fishing communities generally. That said, we support this effort to test and assess the feasibility of this fishing technique with smaller vessels in an area of the coast where chilipepper has historically been one of the most important groundfish for commercial fishermen. We intend to work with participants on developing and implementing an electronic monitoring program should this EFP be accepted.

We have heard from fishermen, industry and community allies that some fishermen and ports in this part of California are struggling to make ends meet. The situation has become increasingly dire in the last few years because the two most valuable fisheries for California – salmon and Dungeness crab – have been below average. This EFP represents an opportunity for Monterey Bay area fishermen to test gear that might enable them to regain access to a valuable and healthy stock in the waters off the central CA coast. We strongly urge you to consider the proposal and give it your preliminary approval.

Sincerely,

Shems Jud
EDF Oceans
Pacific Regional Director
sjud@edf.org



November 5, 2017

HARBOR/MARINA DIVISION

Phil Anderson, Chair
Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101
Portland, Oregon 97220

RE: Agenda Item F.8 Preliminary Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) Approval for 2019-2020

Dear Chair Anderson,

My name is John Haynes, I represent Monterey Harbor, City of Monterey in central California. This EFP represents an opportunity for our commercial small boat fishing community to access a healthy and marketable groundfish species, Chilipepper rockfish. This particular species has historically been one of the most important fish for commercial fishermen in California, especially along the central coast. Chilipepper stocks are healthy, and this EFP is intended to test and assess the feasibility of a new fishing technique (formerly known as fly gear) with smaller vessels who fish out of Monterey Bay. There are local markets for these fish, but the catch has been constrained by limits and access to fishing grounds (i.e. RCA).

For many fishermen in our area, their economic situation has become increasingly dire. The last few seasons for California salmon and Dungeness crab, our two most valuable fisheries, have been below average and we are no longer breaking even. As a community, we are struggling to keep our commercial fisheries and working waterfronts alive. This EFP is important to Monterey because it may provide data to support permitting fishermen to use new gear to target under-utilized species with reduced by-catch of other species. Chilipepper rockfish is a species that has local appeal as a sustainably fished species and would be economically important to the entire local seafood supply chain from fisherman to consumer. Additionally, the Chilipepper rockfish fishery has potential to stabilize our local fisheries seasonality, fostering year-round fishing and marketing opportunities.

I appreciate the EFP as a mechanism for fishermen to innovate and try new things, while maintain accountability through monitoring and reporting back on our efforts. This EFP represents a clear opportunity for us [or community] to access a valuable and healthy stock in the waters off the central CA coast. I/We strongly urge you to consider the proposal and give it your preliminary approval.

Respectfully,

John Haynes
Monterey Harbormaster
831-646-3951