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Agenda Item F.8.b  
Supplemental Public Comment 3  
November 2017

November 6, 2017

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

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

Dear Chairman Anderson and Council members,

On behalf of the Monterey Bay Fisheries Trust, I would like to extend our strong support for the Exempted Fishing Permit being submitted by Alan Lovewell of Real Good Fish. This EFP has similarities to a previously granted EFP by Steve Fosmark, which was never fully acted on due to unforeseen circumstances.

The Monterey Bay Fisheries Trust is a nonprofit working to advance the social, economic, and environmental sustainability of Monterey Bay fisheries. As a community, we are struggling to keep our commercial fisheries and working waterfronts alive. One of the challenges small boat fishermen face is restricted access to important rockfish species due to quota limits and limited access to fishing grounds within Rockfish Conservation Areas.

Chilipepper rockfish has historically been one of the most important fish for commercial fishermen in California, especially along the central coast. The proposed EFP will: (1) test and assess the feasibility of a new fishing technique (formerly known as fly gear) to catch Chilipepper rockfish in Monterey Bay; (2) determine areas that are abundant with Chilipepper rockfish, and that correspond to low densities of overfished species, and; (3) test new cost effective electronic monitoring and vessel monitoring systems. This presents an opportunity for commercial small boat fishermen to access a healthy and marketable groundfish species, while avoiding overfished species and improving monitoring systems.

If approved, this EFP will support the Monterey Bay Fisheries Trust's efforts to revitalize local fisheries and rebuild local markets. The Monterey Bay Fisheries Trust will work with the EFP team and support their efforts in whatever way we can.

In sum, this EFP presents a clear opportunity for Monterey Bay's community to access a valuable and healthy stock in the waters off the central California coast. We strongly urge you to consider the proposal and give it your preliminary approval.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S. Flumerfelt".

Sherry Flumerfelt  
Executive Director