

March 2018

Pacific Fishery Management Council Meeting
March 8-14, 2018
Re. Agenda Item H.2 - Gear Switching

Letter submitted by Giovanni (John) Pennisi,
Elaine Pennisi, and Giuseppe (Joe) Pennisi

To Pacific fishery Management Council

1. Gear switching, this would not be good management to consider not allowing it to be an option needed for Trawlers to harvest highly marketable + valuable Black Cod. For those of us in California that don't have a Dover market, there would be a huge bycatch that would have to go overboard. I believe millions of pounds of Dover, Long spine, Rex Sole and other Species will have to go overboard until we can establish Dover markets again. This is not limiting those who took advantage of the fishery with the intent to only harvest one Species of the trawl complex. Gear switching was supported as a good management option needed for trawlers to get their Black cod with a zero rate of by catch. We need to continue this option to fish responsibly until markets are rebuilt for our other deep water complex Species. For those who bought a trawl permit with the intent to take advantage of an option that the trawl fleet needs to sustain itself until full recovery. This was the wrong reason for gear switching. The permits that did not make landings

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under gear switching does not reflect the need for those who really need this option in the future, to survive as a trawl operation, until our markets are re-established. Putting a control date of September of 2017 or by giving an endorsement on those permits, only favors in those for the wrong reasons. Those who took advantage of an option needed by trawlers without Dover markets, who needed this to harvest their most valuable species on their portfolio in a responsible way. We are asking for Status Quo, until our markets are rebuilt for all deep-water species.

Thank you Sincerely

The Pennisi Family
Giovanni John Pennisi
F/V Irene's Way

Elaine Pennisi
F/V San Giovanni & owner of Royal Seafood

Giuseppe Joe Pennisi
F/V Pioneer