

Pacific Fishery Management Council Meeting  
March 8-14, 2018  
Re. Agenda Item H.2 - Trawl Sablefish Management Area

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

1. To Pacific fishery Management Council

my name is John Pennisi, I'm a third generation trawl fisherman from Monterey Ca. I started running one of my dad's trawlers when I was 16, along with two of my brothers. I am now 54 years old. This trawl fishery has been my family's way of life for over 100 years, starting in San Francisco. My grandfather moved to Monterey where my father continued trawling along with two more of his own boats. He had a Marine Store to supply the local fishing fleet with their needs. He owned and operated "Royal Seafood", one of about 7 fishmarkets in the area processing groundfish. There were 8 to 10 trawlers between Monterey and Moss Landing, fishing year round, and about the same fishing traps for Blackcod. After the Groundfish fishery was declared a disaster, and the buy backs were over, the IFQ's were finally attached to the permits that were still left in 2011. Monterey and Morro Bay areas found there were no more fish processing markets,

Marine Stores, and no more ice available on the docks. and

Just 3 independently owned boats with trawl permits were left.

These family owned boats with permit and IFQ that can still have opportunity and with local community support. It will take time to rebuild our fishery in these areas, after such a loss of infrastructure.

Today I see the community in Monterey and Morro Bay working hard together with their resources and money, to restore and bring back this fishery before it is completely gone. The 5 year review of this matter does not give enough time for the southern fishing sector to rebuild its fishing communities.

The opportunity is needed for the future. If you eliminate the 36° line and make Blackcod coast wide, more of the Blackcod harvest will be taken in the North where the larger catch capacity is and stronger fishing communities are. This action will take away the opportunity and availability

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from this area for a future worth doing and encouraging, if there is going to be a next generation.

In conclusion, once structure is back the fish will be caught, which will create jobs for the towns where fishing started. We have lost so much for the few independent trawl fishermen that are left in these areas, this would not be good. It would also directly hurt the future of these two historical fishing towns that their counties share, — The 36° Line for fishing Black cod.

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