

COASTAL & OFFSHORE PACIFIC CORPORATION

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Agenda Item G.6
Attachment 2
June 2018

May 10, 2018

Dr. Kit Dahl
Pacific Fisheries Management Council
Highly Migratory Species
Portland, Oregon

Via Email

Dear Dr. Dahl,

Please consider this as my application for an **Exempted Fishing Permit** for the following gear and operations areas:

FISHING GEAR: Deep Set Longline fishing gear using 5 nautical miles of main line and not less than 15 hooks/buoy.

PURPOSE and JUSTIFICATION: To test the use of a 5 nautical mile section of deep set pelagic longline (DSL) fishing gear inside the US EEZ off the West Coast of California, Oregon and Washington. There has been no NOAA Fisheries or PFMC approved deep set pelagic longline fishing effort off the US West Coast inside the US EEZ. Yet the development and correct use of effective pelagic longline mitigation measures, (Swimmer, et al. 2017 presentation to PFMC) has allowed deep set pelagic longline fishing to be conducted in other areas of the Eastern Pacific Ocean and with minimal interactions with sea birds, sea turtles and marine mammals. Having the ability to deploy deep set longline gear within the US EEZ will dramatically reduce the use of fuel, allow us to operate closer to our delivery ports and substantially improve the quality of product landed because the transit time and distance to and from the fishing grounds will be greatly reduced.

AREA of OPERATIONS: Not less than 35 nautical miles offshore (west) of the Channel Islands off Southern California (San Miguel Island to San Nicholas Island to San Clemente Island) from the US/Mexican EEZ to the Oregon/Washington border and offshore (west) to the US EEZ off the West Coast. No fishing operations will take place within 35 miles of the California/Oregon/Washington coast in the waters north of Point Conception and no fishing operations will take place in any National Marine Sanctuary.

FISHING SEASON: Year around, weather permitting.

SPECIES TARGETS: All legal Highly Migratory Species including swordfish, tuna, opah and pomfret. We will retain onboard and land only those species that are allowed by the NMFS and CDFW (no marlin or spearfish will be retained or landed).

FISHING GEAR MITIGATION MEASURES: ALL US approved and demonstrated effective mitigation measures currently available will be used at all times including:

Marine Mammal Mitigation:

1. Weak circle hooks not more than 4.5mm in wire diameter and with not more than 10 degrees of offset
2. Branch lines will be not less than 2.1mm diameter monofilament

Sea Bird Mitigation:

1. Leaded swivels not less than 45gm on each monofilament branch line
2. A hydraulic line shooter, mounted for side setting, will be employed at all times when setting the line
3. A Tori bird scarring line will be employed during setting
4. NO "lazy lines" will be used during setting or hauling of the gear

Sea Turtle Mitigation:

1. Large, 50mm outside dimension, circle hooks with not more than 10 degrees of offset will be used exclusively.

2. Only fusiform fish bait (mackerel or similar) will be used.
3. A line clipper with inverted 'V', de-hookers with both short and long handles, a large dip net, a rubber tire, PVC sea turtle mouth devices and buoy lines not less than 20m in length will be used at all times.

Shark Mitigation:

1. NO wire will be used in the construction of the branch lines and all sharks will be released alive by cutting the monofilament branch line below the 45gm lead swivel and as close to the hook as possible. No sharks will be brought aboard or landed.

TRAINING: Captain(s) will be certified as having completed the NMFS approved Protected Species Workshop. In addition, one member of the crew, the captain or the owner, will be certified in first aid, medical emergencies at sea and as a USCG certified drill instructor.

DESIGNATED FISHING VESSEL: M/V Kaylee H (ON 536620). Kaylee H is a 77.3 foot (23m) steel offshore longline and troll vessel with a total of 7 crew aboard during longline operations. The vessel is currently classified as a Category III vessel under the MMPA and with zero marine mammal interactions during the past five (5) years with 100% observer coverage during longline operations (NMFS 2017 List of Fisheries, 2018).

We anticipate that the NMFS will assign observers for 100% of our deep set longline fishing trips inside the US EEZ off the US West Coast. We have accommodations for observers and are prepared to accommodate observers on our longline trips conducted under this EFP.

COMMERCIAL FISHING EXPERIENCE: John D. Hall, Ph.D., has been engaged in commercial fishing since 1977, a total of 41 years. His commercial fishing experience has included drift gillnetting for salmon in Cook Inlet, False Pass and the Bering Sea offshore from Port Moller, AK, dive harvest of herring roe on kelp in Prince William Sound, AK, troll fishing for albacore in the north and south Pacific, longline fishing for tuna, swordfish and other HMS from the waters south of American Samoa to the waters north of Hawaii and in the eastern Pacific Ocean. John Hall is currently one of the owners of the M/V Kaylee H and as

such holds valid High Seas Fisheries Compliance Act and Highly Migratory Species permits for the Kaylee H. Dr. Hall's fishing related CV is attached.

REQUESTED PERMIT DURATION: Two (2) years, initially. After the first two years, and assuming the operations are financially successful and demonstrate a low or zero incident of interactions with protected species, we request that the NMFS re-issue the permit for an additional five (5) years.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS AND OBSERVER COVERAGE: We anticipate that the NMFS will assign observers on 100% of our longline fishing trips under this permit, at least for the first two years of this effort, and we are able to accommodate NMFS observers on our 23m vessel. We will maintain and submit NMFS approved fishing logbooks to record our catch after each fishing trip. Discards and any interactions with protected species or other species of interest will be noted in the NMFS logbooks.

Should you have questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me and I will respond.

Best regards,

John D. Hall

John Hall
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attached: JD Hall CV

CURRICULUM VITAE

John David Hall

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Education: Ph.D. (1981) Biology, University of California, Santa Cruz
M.A. (1974) Biology, University of California, Santa Cruz
M.A. (1967) Biology, Humboldt State University
B.A. (1966) Zoology, Humboldt State University

Title: Fisherman, Marine Biologist

Professional Organizations:

California Pelagic Fisheries Association
Hawaiian Longline Association
Ecological Society of America
American Fishery Society
Society for Marine Mammology (Charter Member)

Professional Awards:

US Patent 5,410,519 for Acoustic Tracking System (1995).
US. Patent No. 5,005,309 for Instrumented Fish Aggregating Device and Method (1991).

Commercial Fishing Experience:

2017-Present Owner/operator, M/V Kaylee H, a 23m steel longline and troll fishing vessel. Troll and longline operations in the eastern Pacific Ocean from the waters southwest of San Diego to the US/Canadian border

2000-2016 Owner/operator, M/V Zephyr, a 23m steel longline vessel. Longline operations in the north and south Pacific Ocean from the waters south of American Samoa to the waters north and east of Hawaii

1995-2000 Owner/operator, M/V Ladysmith, a 27m steel longline and troll fishing vessel. Troll and longline operations in the north and south Pacific Ocean from 45° south latitude to 52° north latitude.

1989-1994 Owner/operator, M/V Entre. Salmon drift gillnet operations in Cook Inlet, Alaska

1977-1982 Crewman, M/V Shelby D, M/V Prospector and M/V Oldsquaw. Salmon drift gillnet and herring roe on kelp dive operations in Cook Inlet, False Pass and Port Moller and Prince William Sound, Alaska

List of Publications and non-Commercial Fishing Projects Available on Request