

# California State Senate

**SENATOR MIKE MCGUIRE**

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA'S SECOND SENATE DISTRICT



February 20, 2020

Phil Anderson, Chair  
Pacific Fisheries Management Council  
1100 Northeast Ambassador Place, #101  
Portland, Oregon 97220

Dear Chair Anderson and Council Members:

I write to urge the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) members to prioritize an analysis and discussion of opening the non-trawl Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA).

I am proud to represent 40% of the California coastline in Northern California - from the Golden Gate to the Oregon border. It includes more ports and harbors than any district in the Golden State. Fishing is vital to our cultural and economic vitality. As you know, our commercial fishing fleets have faced constant challenges over the past five years and it has put a strain on thousands of families who depend on a healthy fishery for their livelihoods.

California coastal communities desperately need expanded access to the non-trawl RCA. Continued restriction of salmon seasons, coupled with reduced crab seasons make Open Access to the non-trawl RCA the only near-term financial relief for a cash strapped commercial fleet.

The Council previously provided direction to plan time in 2020 for analyzing expanded access to the non-trawl RCA. To date, this has yet to occur and the March Council meeting does not have a clear agenda item calling for discussion or review of non-trawl open access RCA topics.

I request the Council prioritize expanded access to the non-trawl RCA as early as possible and help improve the stability and longevity of our commercial fishing fleet.

I appreciate your attention and consideration to this matter. If I can be of any assistance, please don't hesitate to call my office at (916) 651-4002.

Warmest Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike McGuire".

MIKE MCGUIRE  
Senator