



November 3, 2017

Phil Anderson, Chair
Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101
Portland, Oregon 97220

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

Dear Chair Anderson,

On behalf of our business, *Fished & Foraged* based in Santa Cruz, California we are writing to support the proposed EFP for fishing Chilipepper rockfish with fly gear. As commercial fishermen, we see an promising opportunity to target an abundant sustainable species that could create a much needed economic opportunity for us and fishermen throughout Santa Cruz harbor. Chilipepper have historically been one of the most important fish for commercial fishermen in California, especially along the central coast. Chilipepper stocks are healthy, and this EFP is intended to test and assess the feasibility of a new fishing technique (formerly known as fly gear) with smaller vessels who fish out of Monterey Bay. We have local markets for these fish, but have been constrained by catch limits (open access) and accessible fishing grounds (RCA).

As a new fishing business, we see promise for providing our community with more local sustainable seafood. However, many of the fisheries we participate in like Dungeness crab and King salmon have seen record low years which is forcing us to look into new economic opportunities for making ends meet. As a result we're looking for options to diversify. The port of Santa Cruz has only 1 remaining buyer, and less than 10 boats operating annually. This EFP is important for us because we want to be able to provide our community with a local sustainable fish, and create a new legacy of sustainable fishing in our region that we can pass on to future generations.

We appreciate this EFP as an opportunity for fishermen in our community to innovate, create new business opportunities, while using a scientific framework to assess the viability of our efforts both economically and ecologically. This EFP represents a clear opportunity for our community to access a valuable and healthy stock in the waters off the central CA coast. We strongly urge you to consider the proposal and give it your preliminary approval.



Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brendan Pini', with a small 'x' mark at the end of the signature.

Brendan Pini

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