

October 30, 2018

Mr. Phil Anderson
Chairman Pacific Fishery Management Council
770 NE Ambassador Place
Suite 101, Portland, OR 97220-1384

Re: Agenda Item G.4.b Public Comments:
Omnibus Project Prioritization

Dear Chairman Anderson and Council Members:

My name is Bill James. I am a commercial Nearshore fisherman. I am also the fishery consultant for Port San Luis Commercial Fisherman's Association.

We request an addition to the Groundfish Management Team report on Groundfish Workload Prioritization 2016, Item #53. Non-Trawl RCA modification to include a change in the Non-Trawl RCA from 40 fms. to 100 fms. in the area from 34:27 to 40:10 and also from 30 fms. to 100 fms. from 40:10 - 42:00 for the gears of 1.) Vertical hook and line gear and 2.) Rod and Reel gear only.

Gears to be analyzed are:

1. Vertical hook and line gear and rod and reel gear with a long leader between the sinker and the bottom hook. (0-50 foot no hooks)

These gears would allow the Commercial Non-Trawl small vessels to access the plentiful Shelf Rockfish stocks that they have been denied access to for the last 17 years.

I believe these gears will have a very minimal impact on the over-fished Yelloweye Rockfish.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Bill James

Bill James
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Salem, OR 97304