

November 1, 2022

Mr. Marc Gorelnik, Chair
Pacific Fisheries Management Council
7700 Ambassador Place, Suite 101
Portland, OR 97220

RE: Agenda Item- H-3, Sablefish Gear Switching

Chairman Gorelnik and Council Members:

My name is Lisa Damrosch, my 20-year-old son is the fifth generation of my family to commercially fish full time out of Half Moon Bay, California. He works with my brother, Geoff Bettencourt who grew up fishing with our father and grandfather. My brother owns trawl quota, trawl permits and the fishing vessel Miss Moriah. Our family has participated in the trawl fishery since long before it became the IFQ fishery in 2011 and continues to participate to this day. We are one of very few operations to ever use both bottom trawl and fixed gear and have harvested with both gear types in just the last few months. As trawl fishermen this flexibility has been incredibly important for our family business.

We appreciate the efforts throughout this process to ensure that historical investments and participation are considered, and that all the current alternatives address this. It is critical that our family can continue doing what we have been doing since 2011.

At the same time, as trawlers we also recognize that Sablefish is an important species needed to access other species in the trawl fishery, and the importance of trawl landings to our port communities. We need only to look to this year to see the challenges associated with less Sablefish QP available. For this reason, we stand with trawlers that are supportive of Alternative 3 with sub-options 3 and 3 as the PPA. We are not in favor of a sunset or expiration. We believe that moving this forward to a final resolution is what is best for future of the trawl fishery.

Thank You,

Lisa Damrosch