

RE: Comments on Non-Agenda Items

Dear PFMC, There are numerous concerns that I have and would like the PFMC to consider: 1) In regard to the Southern Resident Pacific (SRP) orca whale pod, there are only 73 members. In 2023, 11 killer whales were killed in the Bering Sea by “trawl nets” and one killer whale was killed in gear from the Alaska Fisheries Science Center. These “incidental” entanglements are not acceptable in my opinion, period. The population of the SRP pod has been in decline for over 20 years! In addition, the pod has been reported as “starving” for many years due to low Chinook salmon stocks. I believe that the NOAA is absolutely incompetent in their management of the SRP pod. Who is responsible for their “trawl net” deaths and was the responsible person(s) fined/banned from fishing in this manner? I would like the PFMC to step up, to enforce better monitoring and better protection of the orca whales. 2) It was reported in the news that the Eastern Tropical Pacific (ETP) killer whale pod has been seen swimming farther north than ever before. Scientists believe that warmer ocean temperatures are encouraging the ETP to swim northward. What is being done to monitor/mitigate the impact of these orcas on the environment? The diet of the ETP is different, they feast on sea lions, porpoises, sharks, etc. There is an abundant food supply for the ETP in Southern CA which may be at risk. There is a very small population of fur seals, for one example. 3) Due to literature posted on the PFMC, it is my understanding that the PFMC supports the development of offshore wind turbines (OWT) in the Pacific Ocean. I am opposed to OWT for numerous scientific reasons, which I believe the PFMC rightly adhere to. The OWT cause noise and vibrations in the ocean that interferes with the navigation of all marine life. Further, there is the risk of lubricant spills as OWT are unable to tolerate wind speeds above 55 MPH. Further, there will be a worrisome increase in maritime activity that will further exasperate the problem with noise and vibrations from the engines on ships. Please, I believe the PFMC has an obligation to protect the Pacific Ocean. 4) Further, how can the PFMC support OWT in Morrow Bay, where sea otters are struggling to survive in the fragile kelp beds off the shore?! How can it be that the PFMC does not acknowledge the recklessness of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management’s (BOEM) decision to establish the 2nd OWT in Morrow Bay?! Numerous people are concerned by the ludicrous decision to place OWT in Morrow Bay! Please, as the PFMC, protect our sea otters from OWT. 5) I am very concerned about PFMC’s decisions and how they impact small coastal mammals. There are numerous small coastal mammals that are rarely mentioned and hardly identified along the CA coast. I am referring to the CA Mink, the CA Fisher, the River Otters, the Humboldt Marten, etc. These small coastal mammals are rarely every addressed by the CA Fish and Game Committee and the CA Department of Fish and Wildlife. I believe these small coastal mammals need to be accounted for by all government decisions. 6) There are 7 species of Pacific salmon and ALL of them are either endangered or threatened.! What kind of management are they receiving?! How can 830,000 Chinook fry die on their way to the Klamath River as they swim out to the Pacific Ocean?! How can multiple agencies make a gross mistake by not testing the condition of the river before releasing ALL the fry to their subsequent death?! This matters immensely to other marine mammals (in the Pacific Ocean) depending upon the salmon to eat (including the SRP who are starving?! I haven’t read any reports on the impact of the 830,000 dead fry upon other sea mammals. Your consideration will be appreciated.