

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

Re: Agenda Item G.5 Public Comment:

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Council:

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.

The Data moderate Stock Assessment for Quillback Rockfish in waters off California does not have enough length data for Quillback Rockfish in the primary areas of the state wear they are caught. Their main habitat is in the northern part of the state. The northern part of California and the Southern Oregon coast should be viewed as once area not two separate areas. The Oregon Quillback Assessment is listed as 47% of unfished whereas the California Quillback Assessment is listed as 14% of unfished. What is wrong is that Oregon has better data streams versus California's data streams are not useful because either the data is taken in areas of the state where Quillback Rockfish live.

I would like the Council to not adopt the California Quillback Rockfish Assessment at this meeting and wait until there is sufficient data to do a Full Stock Assessment for California Quillback Rockfish.

The effects of adopting this assessment in its present form will have a major negative effect on every port in California. It will cause many small businesses to close, restaurants not to reopen, increase unemployment etc. PLEASE do not adopt THIS ASSESSMENT

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Bill James

Bill James

Are there any questions?