

John Koeppe
Morro Bay, Moss Landing, Santa Cruz, Bodega Bay Fishermen Associations
06/14/2021 08:07 PM PDT

RE: Future Council Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning

Agenda Item: C.10 Summary Situation- Future Council Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning June 2021 Council staff's report under Agenda Item C.2, Attachment 2 titled Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology Scoping Report states on page 11 that: "While the levels of salmon catch fluctuate from year to year, the amount of groundfish taken as incidental catch is very low so that changes in the salmon fishery do not substantially alter the projections for harvest-related mortality in the groundfish fishery." Salmon trollers reiterate their request to continue scoping efforts to add underutilized rockfish stocks, such as widows, chili peppers, and bocaccio, to the list of rockfish to be retained as bycatch in the salmon troll fishery south of the 40.10N. It seems Council's staff recognizes that the salmon troll fishery has an insignificant impact on rockfish stocks. A constant is used in the Rockfish FMP to factor in rockfish bycatch in the salmon troll fishery because the bycatch is so low as not to influence any abundance projections. As trollers, we occasionally interact with these species and discard them, as required by law. Therefore, we again request regulations change to allow for retention of underutilized rockfish for the public's consumption and salmon fleet's financial benefit. Please include this agenda item on the September agenda so that there is hope this resource can be harvested in the 2022 salmon fishery.