



April 03, 2021

Chairman Marc Gorelnik
Pacific Fisheries Management Council
7700 N.E. Ambassador Place 101
Portland, OR 97220-1384

RE: F-4 Sablefish Gear Switching – Identify the Gear Switching Level to Use in Developing Alternatives.

Dear Chairman Gorelnik,

These comments are from the owners, officers, and managers of the Ocean Gold Seafoods group of companies in regard to the Gear Switching issue. Ocean Gold previously submitted [public comment under the September 2020 Gear Switching agenda item](#), and those comments still apply to the overall issue.

Our experience in processing bottom trawl caught fish on a limited basis since September further reinforces our view that the black cod trawl quota needs to stay in the trawl fishery. The full trawl quota is needed for trawlers to deal with black cod catch rates that vary by time of year and area, and to fish in volumes and at times that are needed by processors to make investments and develop markets.

The full trawl quota is needed by trawlers and processors to improve attainment. The black cod is so important strategically and

economically that its supply absolutely dictates the capacity of the fishery to utilize the other species. Black cod supply to trawl dictates the capacity of Ocean Gold to increase bottom trawl utilization, and to provide more year-round employment which will of great benefit to our community. We request that the Council choose 10% maximum fixed gear attainment and then phase out gear switching over time.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,



Mark Rydman, President/CEO



Greg Shaughnessy, COO



Ben Bale, CFO



Albert Carter, Governmental Affairs

Ocean Gold Seafoods, Inc.

P.O. Box 1104

Westport, WA 98595

Phone: (360) 268-2510 Fax: (360) 505-0300