

November 15, 2021

Mr. Marc Gorelnik, Chair
Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101
Portland, Oregon 97220-1384

RE: Agenda Item C.9 – Letter of Support for Dr. Waldo Wakefield for Habitat Committee

Dear Chair Gorelnik and Council Members:

We are pleased to provide this letter of support for Dr. Waldo Wakefield's nomination to the open Conservation seat on the Pacific Fishery Management Council's (PFMC's) Habitat Committee (HC). Dr. Wakefield has served the Council previously in a number of capacities over the course of his career, most notably as a member of the HC for approximately ten years.

Dr. Wakefield is an Adjunct Professor in the College of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences at Oregon State University (OSU) in the Marine Resource Management Program, and the Cooperative Institute for Marine Resources Studies at the Hatfield Marine Science Center (HMSC). From 1999 to 2018, he was a Research Fisheries Biologist and Marine Habitat Ecology Team Lead at NOAA Fisheries' Northwest Fisheries Science Center (NWFCSC) based on OSU's HMSC campus.

As many of us have engaged in the PFMC process for several years, we have had the privilege of working with Dr. Wakefield. He has earned the trust and respect of Council members and stakeholders from all affiliations, especially through his deep understanding of benthic habitats and the impacts of fishing gear on the seafloor and its biogenic structures, but also through his science-based and collaborative approach to advising the Council on the management of those impacts. He helped inform and guide the Council through two very challenging but ultimately successful efforts to address Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) issues in the Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP) over the course of his career at NOAA Fisheries, and remains actively engaged in fisheries research since his retirement. For instance, he is a member of a research team that is conducting a collaborative effort to study the habitat impacts of recent Council decisions that re-opened areas to fishing effort that had previously been closed for nearly two

decades. This research is a longstanding priority for the Council and has the active support of the industry and the conservation community.

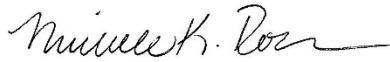
As a member of the HC, Dr. Wakefield would bring his expertise in identifying and assessing issues, developing and analyzing options, and recommending analyses and actions that are thoughtful, well-balanced, and grounded strongly in an ecosystem-based approach to fisheries science and management. In summary, we have no doubt that he would be an asset to the HC and the Council process if appointed to the vacant Conservation seat.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,



Jos Hill
Project Director, Conserving Marine Life in the U.S.
The Pew Charitable Trusts



Michele K. Robinson
for Ocean Conservancy



Geoff Shester, Ph.D.
California Campaign Director and Sr. Scientist
Oceana