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Mr. Marc Gorelnik, Chair
Pacific Fisheries Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101
Portland, OR 97220

RE: Agenda Item H.3: Sablefish Gear Switching

Dear Chair Gorelnik and Council Members:

I am opposed to all of the current alternatives as they stand today. Here are my reasons in the simplest form.

No matter how much we all want a thriving trawl industry, none of us can predict what that will look like. And none of us have control over the future markets. We do not control the market.

As one of the very few people still remaining in the non-whiting year-around trawl fishery. I deserve every right to stay flexible. The same as the processors enjoy, the same as other fisherman that participate in other fisheries enjoy, the same as others in different sectors of the trawl fishery enjoy.

Exemptions for the south and fixed gear allow them to continue their current businesses also. What about me? I am already 100% in the year-round bottom trawl fishery. The very business that we are trying to grow. Yet I am the one that has to sacrifice?

I am the one giving up flexibility and value. The processors and people diversified in other fisheries are not. They are still going to retain their flexibility. In fact, in addition I will be giving up market power in the lease/trade market as well as the harvesting market. I am one with some of the least market power, yet I will be forced to hand over more to the bigger entities in both arenas.

The proposed restrictions are being placed on me. I would be sacrificing what I've been doing to stay in the business for all 11 years of the IQ system. But for what? No one can assure me what the future holds. In fact, no one has even tried. I have not heard even one time a serious prediction of ex-vessel prices and volumes for different species like Dover and other Sole into the future- from anyone. Let alone a guarantee. Therefore, I am assuming all the risk with a completely unknown possible reward. This is not the way it has to be.

There are other remedies that don't involve harming the current participants in the fishery. I beg the commission to explore these options first. Therefore, I am not endorsing any of the current alternatives.

Thank You for Your Consideration

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