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Fwd: Agenda item B.1

1 message

PFMC Comments - NOAA Service Account <pfmc.comments@noaa.gov>

Tue, Feb 9, 2016 at 7:11 AM

To: Chuck Tracy - NOAA Affiliate <chuck.tracy@noaa.gov>

Cc: Kit Dahl - NOAA Affiliate <kit.dahl@noaa.gov>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Jonathan Gonzalez** <eatusseafood@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, Feb 8, 2016 at 11:13 PM

Subject: Agenda item B.1

To: "pfmc.comments@noaa.gov" <pfmc.comments@noaa.gov>

Dear Chair Lowman and Members of the Council,

In September 2015, the PFMC completely CANCELLED Agenda Item G.3. which would have been the Scoping of Amendment 4 to the HMS FMP: Authorizing a Shallow-Set Longline Fishery Outside of the EEZ.

At the November 2015 PFMC meeting, "Initiating a Council process to authorize shallow-set longline gear outside the Exclusive Economic Zone was given "lower priority" due to a comment from Anderson, Culver and Welford.

When I look at the [March 2016 proposed PFMC Agenda](#), I notice the Scoping of Amendment 4 to the HMS FMP: Authorizing a Shallow-Set Longline Fishery Outside of the EEZ is not on there at all.

The Bren school at UCSB concluded their masters thesis on the swordfish fishery (which was backed by Steve Stohs at NMFS and Melissa Stevens at TNC) in April 2015 and sent it in for public comment under agenda item E.3.b for the June 2015 PFMC meeting here (pages 79-188)

http://www.pcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/E3b_SupPubCom2_Full_E-Only_JUN2015BB.pdf

You'll notice the "conclusion page" of that report that suggests and supports the reintroduction of longline to the equation, stating:

"Our analysis demonstrated that reincorporating longline into the fishery could increase domestic swordfish catch and fleetwide profits without exceeding bycatch hard cap levels. Therefore, we recommend the PFMC consider approving EFPs for longline as a first step to assessing viability and bycatch performance of this gear off the West Coast. Overall, we recommend the Council consider a gear portfolio composed of a mixed-gear fleet of drift gillnet, longline, and harpoon as this results in the highest profit and catch outcomes and will provide a steady supply of domestically-caught, California swordfish throughout most of the year."

Id hate to see this thorough report endorsing longline that was conducted by an environmental science school and backed by NMFS and TNC fail to get the attention of the Council.

I ask that you please begin the process of the Scoping of Amendment 4 to the HMS FMP: Authorizing a Shallow-Set Longline Fishery Outside of the EEZ on the June 2016 agenda.

Thank you,

Jonathan Gonzalez

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Thank you for your comments to the Pacific Fishery Management Council. Your comments have been received and will be forwarded to the appropriate staff member for processing.

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