



GAVIN NEWSOM
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

March 11, 2017

Mr. Chuck Bonham
State of California Principal Official
California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Sacramento, CA
(916) 653-7667
director@wildlife.ca.gov

RE: PFMC Vote to Cede California's Drift Gillnet Fishery to Federal Oversight

Dear Mr. Bonham,

California is well-known and much-loved for its natural resources and unique heritage. Our marine resources are particularly valued for their contributions to the local and national economy through industries such as fishing and tourism. These industries rely heavily upon healthy ocean ecosystems, and any exploitation by one industry could drastically impact another. This interdependence requires synergistic approaches to marine resource management that balance the varied interests specific to our state's diverse resources and cultural values.

The fishing industry is a well-established and important component of California's marine heritage. Our identity is also connected to the ocean through the majestic whales, dolphins, and turtles that traverse California's waters. Some of these animals are protected by State and Federal legislation due to serious threats to their persistence. One such threat is drift gillnet fishing, which, according to NOAA's observation program, kills or injures approximately seven times more whales and dolphins than all other observed fisheries in California, Oregon, Washington, and Alaska combined.

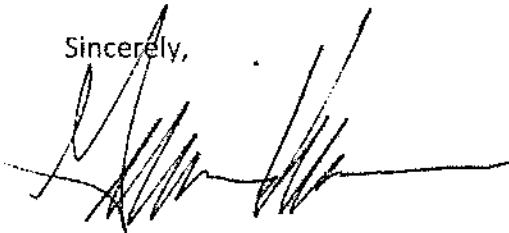
The Drift Gillnet Fishery is currently regulated by the State, which creates the possibility for innovative management solutions that enable the success of the fishery while ensuring protections for vulnerable marine species. California is at risk of losing that regulatory authority to the Federal government if the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) votes on Saturday to approve an amendment to their Fishery Management Plan. Such a decision would constitute a loss for California's marine heritage. Both fisheries management and endangered species conservation rely on sound scientific knowledge to ensure the persistence of these resources



for future generations. The informed and balanced decision making required under these circumstances is inconsistent with the anti-science stance of the current Federal administration.

Now is not the time to be handing control of California's valuable natural resources over to the Federal government. Our State has a proud heritage that is closely associated with the ocean, and it is important that we ensure the preservation of marine resources for everyone who draws value from the ocean. We believe that this can only be achieved by ensuring that the State retains the ability to make decisions that affect our natural resources. Please speak up for California's right to regulate this fishery, and vote against the amendment to the PFMC's Fishery Management Plan ceding oversight of the drift gillnet fishery to the Federal government.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Gavin Newsom", written over a horizontal line.

GAVIN NEWSOM
Lieutenant Governor of California