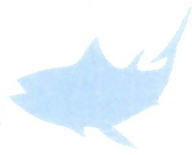




SPORTFISHING
ASSOCIATION
OF CALIFORNIA



5060 N. Harbor Drive, Suite 165
San Diego, CA 92106
(619) 760-4031

April 12, 2023

Ms. Jenn Eckerle, Executive Director of the Ocean Protection Council (OPC)
715 P St., 20th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Executive Director Eckerle,

The Sportfishing Association of California (SAC) is a non-profit entity dedicated to protection of our ocean resources while ensuring public access to those resources. Our membership includes the majority of the Commercial Passenger Sportfishing Vessels in Southern California.

We applaud the extraordinary efforts of OPC to build a strong foundation of decision making based on science and data collection. In a similar theme, SAC has worked with academia, state, federal and international entities to assist in data collection processes.

The purpose of this letter is to express support for OPC funding the expansion of the groundfish sampling program currently underway in California. This investment will enhance critical information needed for future decisions regarding groundfish by the CDFW, PFMC and NMFS.

Thank you for your personal efforts and those of OPC to protect our ocean resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ken Franke", written in a cursive style.

Ken Franke
President
Sportfishing Association of California





**& Commercial Fisherie's,
Inc.**

April 13, 2023

Ms. Jenn Eckerle, Executive Director of the Ocean Protection Council (OPC)
715 P St., 20th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

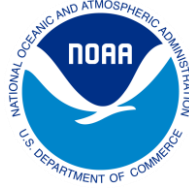
Dear Executive Director Eckerle,

As a Commercial Passenger Sportfishing Vessel – CPFV, and one of the vessels participating in the cooperative research, we would like to express our support for OPC funding the expansion of the groundfish sampling program currently underway in California. This investment will enhance critical information needed for future decisions regarding groundfish by the CDFW, PFMC and NMFS.

Thank you for your personal efforts and those of OPC to protect our ocean resources.

Sincerely,

Capt. Joe Villareal
President



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
Southwest Fisheries Science Center
Fisheries Ecology Division
110 McAllister Way
Santa Cruz, California 95060-5794

April 4, 2023

Ms. Jenn Eckerle
California Ocean Protection Council
California Natural Resources Agency
715 P Street, 20th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Eckerle,

I am writing to express my full support for the proposed Statewide Groundfish Sampling Program on the OPC's April meeting agenda for funding consideration. The sampling program grew out of a successful pilot project funded by the NOAA Fisheries SWFSC Santa Cruz lab during the 2022 recreational groundfish season. The pilot program focused on collecting fishery-dependent data for copper rockfish and quillback rockfish, two species for which the 2021 data moderate stock assessments revealed large data gaps in biological information. The SWFSC, in cooperation with the Sportfishing Association of California (SAC) and six recreational charter boats, successfully collected and processed 762 copper rockfish and 133 quillback rockfish over six months. The copper rockfish have all been aged and will be included in the 2023 copper rockfish stock assessments. In a short amount of time, the program gained traction among the charter boat fleet and increased communication among scientists and the fishing community. The SWFSC does not have the capacity to process fish at the level needed to enhance the program, and partnering with the CCFRP universities to grow the program is a natural fit given their well-established relationships with the fishing community.

In addition to collecting biological samples from rockfish species during the spawning season, extending the time series of data collection will improve our understanding of rockfishes' responses to changing climate conditions. Fecundity and maturity data are also key inputs to stock assessments and are currently lacking for a number of important commercial and recreational species such as quillback rockfish. The full suite of data collected will also include age-at-length information and genetic samples to better inform stock structure and boundaries, a priority in the Pacific Fishery Management Council's (PFMC) current discussions to amend the Groundfish Fishery Management Plan.

In June, the PFMC identified several nearshore rockfish species (yellowtail rockfish, China rockfish and quillback rockfish) as candidates for full stock assessments in 2025. The proposed data collections will be invaluable for fisheries management.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions or for additional information.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "S. Lindley", is written over a light blue rectangular background.

Steve Lindley, Director

Stardust Sportfishing
301 W Cabrillo Blvd
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
805.259.6775
info@stardustsportfishing.com
www.stardustsportfishing.com



April 12, 2023

Ms. Jenn Eckerle, Executive Director of the Ocean Protection Council (OPC)
715 P St., 20th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Executive Director Eckerle,

Stardust Sportfishing, Commercial Passenger Fishing Vessels Stardust & Coral Sea operate from Santa Barbara Landing in Santa Barbara, CA. We operate ½ and ¾ day trips seven days a week during the Southern California groundfish season. We primarily target rockfish, lingcod, sheephead, and ocean whitefish. We initiated daily use of descending devices, and monofilament fishing line recycling receptacles onboard our vessels.

Our vessel Stardust has a stellar reputation in the science/academic community for our ability to facilitate research projects, going back over twenty years. We recognize the need for accurate data to inform the best possible science based management decisions, which is why we are active participants in both state and federal fisheries management process. Our livelihood is directly linked to the accuracy and availability of the quality and quantity of data for science teams to conduct stock assessments, and this is what drove the purpose and creation of the collaborative groundfish sampling program, currently underway in California.

I would like to express our support for OPC funding the expansion of the previously mentioned groundfish sampling program lead by Dr. Melissa Monk- NOAA/NMFS Research Mathematical Statistician, and Dr. Scott Hamilton- California Collaborative Fisheries Research Program. Investing in this program will ensure and enhance critical data collection, analysis, and information, needed for future management decisions regarding groundfish by CDFW, PFMC, and NMFS.

Thank you, Director Eckerle, for your efforts and those of the Ocean Protection Council to protect our ocean resources.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jaime Diamond", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Jaime Diamond
OWNER, STARDUST SPORTFISHING

Yokomizo Sportfishing
P. O. Box 1604
Rocklin, CA 95677
(916) 521-5879
www.seawolfssportfishing.com
jryoko@gmail.com

April 16, 2023

Ms. Jenn Eckerle
Executive Director of the Ocean Protection Council (OPC)
715 P Street, 20th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814


Dear Executive Director Eckerle,

Yokomizo Sportfishing, commercial passenger fishing vessel Sea Wolf, operates from the Fish Emeryville Sportfishing Center in Emeryville, California. We operate ¾ day trips 7 days a week during the San Francisco zone rockfish season. Our primary target species are rockfish and lingcod from Half Moon Bay to Point Reyes and out to the Farallon Islands. Our vessel utilizes descending devices and we recognize the importance of science-based resource management as our livelihood depends on accurate stock assessments.

Prior to purchasing the Sea Wolf, I was the Sacramento Field Office Chief for Surface Water Data Collection at U. S. Geological Survey. Included in my responsibilities was the verification of the accuracy of the data collected and processes followed for policy standards. I was also a member of the internal USGS group that performed reviews of USGS offices through the country to ensure that national guidelines for hydroacoustic and mechanical instrumentation for surface water data collection were being followed. Additionally, during my time with the USGS I was on the team that collected surface water data throughout the Sacramento/San Joaquin Delta for salmon migration models and was heavily involved in the acoustic telemetry salmon tagging and tracking project. My background and experience in these areas have given me a strong understanding of not only the importance of accurate data collection processes but also the danger and risks of flawed, incomplete, or out of date data for models.

I would like to express my support for OPC funding the expansion of the groundfish sampling program lead by Dr. Melissa Monk, NOAA/NMFS Research Mathematical Statistician and Dr. Scott Hamilton, California Collaborative Fisheries Research Program. Investing in this program will ensure and enhance critical data collection, analysis, and information needed for future management decisions regarding groundfish by CDFW, PFMC, and NMFS.

Best regards,



Jon Yokomizo
Owner, Yokomizo Sportfishing
F/V Sea Wolf