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TO: DEPARTMENT FISH & GAME COMMISSION

FROM: SCOTT CYR

DATE: 2/11/2014

SUBJECT: PROPOSAL FOR COMMERCIAL EXPERIMENTAL FISHING GEAR

I'm submitting this proposal as directed after a discussion with Pete Calvis with Fish and Wildlife in the Fort Bragg office. I'm attempting to test the potential strength of a commercial fishery of Octopus Vulgarius. Currently there are two areas that target this species in the United States. One in Florida and the other in Alaska. In those fisheries most octopus are exported and the balance kept here in the states. Most all other landed Octopus is incidental bi-catch of other fisheries.

I will begin fishing the areas of Northern California starting in the waters off Fort Bragg to the Oregon border. My gear would be duplicating existing technologies by using 24" lengths of 6" diameter corrugated black plastic pipe. The pipe will be attached every 50' to a main line consisting of 3/8" rope and a length of 500' thus each main line will have 10 separate traps attached throughout its length. The main line will be buoyed using a series of floats and spar buoy. Each trap will be weighted as well as the main vertical line.

I will start with 5 to 10 main lines and fish in depths of 400' and shallower. Since this is the first of this fishery targeting this area, lengths, quantity and depths will vary depending on findings. Since this species is short lived and very prolific, it is my hope that this fishery will be year long. Reality may prove otherwise. The benefit of this style fishery is that bi-catch will be zero since all we are providing is a benign home without damage to any inhabitant.

As with any fishery, marketing is key. Although, I can sell my catch to the local wholesalers, it is my intent to purchase the proper permits and develop my own market. Currently most octopus is sold frozen. I will try and develop a market that would benefit from fresh product thus increasing profits and making this new fishery viable.

Please contact me with any questions you may have. My contact info is:

Scott Cyr

