

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, July 02, 2014 10:22 AM
To: FGC
Subject: Lost crab pots

My name is Jon Selbicky, I am a commercial salmon fisherman in Monterey. Over the last several years myself and other salmon fisherman have noticed an increase in crab pots in the area. As a result, there has been more crab gear that has been lost due to storms and buoys being cut. Due to the lost gear, there are large areas where salmon fisherman have stopped fishing, because of the danger of entanglement with the rope in the lost crab gear. I'm not writing you to place blame, but to make you aware of this situation.

Recently, I have contacted people from the Oregon Crab Commission to find out what they have done to deal with lost crab gear. They were very helpful and explained how they have dealt with their situation and gave me some contacts that may prove helpful here in California. I have talked with Rachelle Fischer, with Calif. Dungeness Crab Task Force, who was helpful with providing some contacts as well as, Jennifer Renzullo, who has also been helpful with advice. Fortunately, there are some crab fisherman here who are trying to put together an effort to retrieve their lost gear. As a salmon fisherman, I have concerns with this lost gear, and as an ocean steward, I do as well.

I know there are regulations that will limit the effort to retrieve crab gear, due to the number of other fisherman's crab pots a permitted vessel can have on their boat. I would like to see something put together in this area to start cleaning up the lost gear that has become a problem to other fisheries, as well as a problem with entangling marine mammals (whales).

Do I need to attend a Commission meeting and bring this matter up? I was looking at the schedule and did not see any meetings in this area in the near future.

Please advise me on how we can begin the process of the removal of this lost gear and make it safe again, for salmon fisherman and animals. I am eager to aid in any way. My contact information is as follows:

[REDACTED]. I appreciate your time.

Concerned,

Jon Selbicky