

March 11, 2012

Rachelle,

I am unable to attend the meeting, but could you please read the following comments as part of the public comments.

Thanks

Zach Rotwein F/V Abundance. Trinidad, Ca,.....

I am concerned about the implementation of the "waiver to retrieve of another vessels crab pots. Without the right to retrieve lost and derelict crab pots from the ocean upon encountering such, the bill is essentially going to turn the ocean into areas of lost and ghost fishing gear, something fishermen as well as an environmentally conscious public, look down upon. The bill takes a system that has worked well historically and creates a whole new problem. Not being able to retain crab when doing retrieval of others pots discourages such retrieval. Also the contact for a waiver, makes it even more unattractive to get involved in any retrieval operations. This bill should find a way to encourage the removal of lost and abandoned gear as well as being able to prevent the loss of gear when a huge storm is approaching and your boat, body or crew is broken. Currently, you ask a friendly competitor to rescue your gear when a crisis erupts, to retrieve your gear in exchange for the crab in the pots. It is most unfortunate how far apart this language in the bill is from conditions on the "grounds". I suggest that a simple call placed to a Fish And Game message machine should accomplish the task of keeping someone from abusing the system, when retrieving more than 20 pots, under 20 pots should require an entry into a logbook of what has occurred. Both situations should have the reward mechanism, of retaining the crabs, to encourage cleaner fishing grounds and a healthy ocean. Current reading of this bill does just the opposite.

Respectfully submitted,  
Zach Rotwein