

October 5, 2018

Ocean Protection Council
California Natural Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311

RE: Support for Solar Logger Pilot Project

Dear Ms. Deborah Halberstadt, Secretary Laird, and Council Members,

I am sending my support for funding for the solar logger project recommended by the California Dungeness Crab Fishing Gear Working Group. I participated in the project during the 2017/2018 crab season. The solar logger data and analysis was very helpful in connecting the dots when information about whale movement was available. Expanding it to the whale watch boats would make the results even better. Solar loggers and analysis are valuable assets. I back my thoughts with 42 years of crab fishing in the state of California.

Sincerely,

Bob Maharry
Owner/Operator F/V Maureen

October 5, 2018

Ocean Protection Council
California Natural Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311

RE: Support for Solar Logger Pilot Project

Dear Ms. Deborah Halberstadt, Secretary Laird, and Council Members,

My name is John Mellor and I am a commercial fisherman and a member of the California Dungeness Crab Whale Entanglement Working Group. I would like to express my support for the continued funding for the use of solar loggers by commercial fishermen and whale watching boats. The data collected will inform the risk of whales getting entangled in Dungeness crab fishing gear and actions needed to reduce that risk. I don't want to entangle whales.

Sincerely,

John Mellor
Commercial Fisherman

Happywhale.com

904 Columbia St
Santa Cruz, CA 95060 USA
www.happywhale.com
(408) 315-2267



October 15, 2018

California Ocean Protection Council

To Whom It May Concern:

I wish to express support for the proposed effort recommended by the California Dungeness Crab Fishing Gear Working Group to improve our understanding of whale and fishing distributions which inform two of four factors in the Risk Assessment and Mitigation Program (RAMP). By placing solar loggers on fishing and whale watch vessels, an opportunity is created for a clear view into the multiple uses — by humans and whales — of the California marine environment. Happywhale has been able to gather large volumes of whale sighting data from whale watch vessels as 'platforms of opportunity' but we are at times handicapped by imprecise location data; the recommended effort by the Working Group would (1) be quite effective at helping document in high precision where whales are in California near shore waters 365 days a year, and (2) create additional information and motivation for both the fishing industry and the whale watching industry to engage in a process supporting best practice management of marine resources.

Thank you sincerely and with best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ted Cheeseman", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Ted Cheeseman
Co-founder, Happywhale