Dear Chair Lowman and Council members,

Sportfishing is the backbone of our industry and sportfishermen are the lifeblood keeping our businesses running. We write to stand with the thousands of sportfishermen calling for change in the West Coast swordfish fishery, and encourage you to begin the authorization process for deep-set buoy gear in March.

The West Coast commercial fishery for swordfish needs alternative gear types to drift gillnets. These mile-long nets, set for hours at a time overnight, ensnare finfish such as striped marlin and many other species of marine life resulting in 64% of the catch being discarded overboard, often injured or dead.

Last year, the Pacific Fishery Management Council took several positive steps in developing a comprehensive Swordfish Management & Monitoring Plan with the goal of reducing bycatch in the West Coast swordfish fishery. We commend the Council for its approval of hard caps on protected and vulnerable species, as well as 100 percent monitoring in the drift gillnet fishery, as interim measures until a transition to cleaner gear occurs.

Additionally, we applaud the Council’s decision to leave authorization of shallow-set longline gear outside the Exclusive Economic Zone off of the Council’s 2016 agenda. We hope this deletion is permanent, as any West Coast-based longline fishery would not achieve the Council’s goal of reducing bycatch and are not a sustainable alternative to drift gillnets.

Deep-set buoy gear provides such an alternative, and we strongly encourage the Pacific Fishery Management Council to authorize this gear in a timely manner. Buoy gear is actively tended, using a hook-and-buoy system that enables fishermen to drop their hooks as deep as 1,200 feet to reach swordfish and respond to a bite within minutes. Scientists and cooperating fishermen have tested the gear extensively for nearly five years and it maintains a 94 percent marketable catch rate.

We believe the work to implement hard caps and 100 percent monitoring can coincide with authorization of deep-set buoy gear. Please ensure that authorization of this important innovation is a priority in 2016.

Thank you in advance on behalf of the International Game Fish Association, Coastal Conservation Association California, the American Sportfishing Association, and the over one hundred sportfishing businesses listed below.

Sincerely,

We the undersigned
American Sportfishing Association
Mike Leonard- Ocean Resource Policy Director
Alexandria, VA

Daiwa Corporation
Terry Pederson- VP of Sales/Marketing
Cypress, CA

Fred Hall Shows, Inc.
Bart Hall- Producer
Camarillo, CA

Pelagic
Colin Sarfeh- Marketing Director
Costa Mesa, CA

Tow Boat US & Vessel Assist
Ben Scanlan- General Manager
Avalon, CA

Dana Wharf Sportfishing and Whale Watching
Donna Kalez- Vice President
Dana Point, CA

Northwest Sportfishing Industry Association
Liz Hamilton- Executive Director
Oregon City, OR

Hobie Cat Company
Morgan Promnitz- Fishing Product Manager
Oceanside, CA

Westernbass
Wayne Wasulko- President
Sacramento, CA

OFB Outdoors
Michael Tapocik- Founder/President
Dana Point, CA

Salmon King Lodge
Bill Divens- Owner/Guide
Red Bluff, CA

Bob Sands Fishing Tackle, Inc.
Sal Vallone- President
Van Nuys, CA

American Fishing Tackle Company (AFTCO)
Bill Shedd- President
Santa Ana, CA

West Marine
Randy Repass- Founder
Watsonville, CA

Shimano American Corporation
Phil Morlock- Director, Environmental Affairs
Irvine, CA

BD Outdoors, LLC
Ali Hussainy- President
San Diego, CA

Western Outdoor News
Bob Twilegar- President
San Clemente, CA

Pacific Coast Sportfishing Magazine
Drew Lawler- President & Editorial Director
Newport Beach, CA

Cousins Tackle
Charlie Albright- Customer Service Manager
Huntington Beach, CA

Better Fishtrap/ The Quickline System
Adam Carlebach- President
Oakland, CA

Qualia Reels
Dosh McClendon- Owner
Novato, CA

AA Worms
Matthew Paino- General Manager
Temecula, CA

Tackle Warehouse
Richard Zeilenga- COO
San Luis Obispo, CA

SeaGuide
Rick Hall- Global Sales Manager
Missoula, CA
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aguadrone, LLC</td>
<td>Daniel Marion - Owner, San Diego, CA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Performance Tackle</td>
<td>Marc Higashi - Owner, Los Alamitos, CA</td>
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<td>The Rusty Hook</td>
<td>Alex Masumoto - Owner, San Pedro, CA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Let's Talk Hookup</td>
<td>Pete Gray - President, San Diego, CA</td>
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<tr>
<td>RinseKit</td>
<td>Elise Walker - Associate Marketing Director, Carlsbad, CA</td>
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<td>Marshall Madruga Brands</td>
<td>Marshall Madruga - Owner, San Diego, CA</td>
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<td>Sunrize Tackle, Inc.</td>
<td>Pete Wolf - Owner, Goleta, CA</td>
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<td>Okuma Fishing Tackle</td>
<td>Douglas Lasko - President, Ontario, CA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Western Fishing Adventures, Ltd.</td>
<td>Brad Staples - Guide, West Linn, OR</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sky's Guide Service</td>
<td>Skylen Freet - Owner, Sandy, OR</td>
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<tr>
<td>Poulson Cascade Tackle, LLC</td>
<td>Tom Hester - Owner, Clackamas, OR</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oregon River Trails Outfitters</td>
<td>Bill Kremers - Owner, Corvallis, OR</td>
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<td>Fin &amp; Field</td>
<td>Robert Murphy - CEO, Santa Barbara, CA</td>
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<td>Pacific Recreational Products</td>
<td>Jim Stewart - Owner, Tigard, OR</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paradise Guide Service</td>
<td>Phil Paradis - President, Canby, OR</td>
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<td>Michael's Guide Service</td>
<td>Michael Shearer - Owner, Glide, OR</td>
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<tr>
<td>Steve Huber Guide Service</td>
<td>Steve Huber - Owner, Douglas City, CA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Fisherman Guide Service</td>
<td>Kevin Newell - Guide, Portland, OR</td>
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<td>Tom Posey Co</td>
<td>Ron Hiller - President, Tigard, OR</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fight Club Guided Fishing</td>
<td>Jay Daly - Captain, St. Helens, OR</td>
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<tr>
<td>Little Stone Flyfisher</td>
<td>Bob Triggs - Owner, Port Townsend, WA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Double G Guide Service</td>
<td>Gary Geis - Owner, Battle Ground, WA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leisure Sales</td>
<td>Dan Parnell - President, Auburn, WA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bluewater Bait Systems</td>
<td>Randy Wood - Owner, Costa Mesa, CA</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Salt Water Bass Anglers  
Eric Bent- Director  
Whittier, CA

Sea Tow Newport Beach/LA  
Chris McCarthy- Owner  
Newport Beach, CA

All Fish Wear  
Elena Yuja- Owner  
Huntington Park, CA

Phenix Rods  
Alex Campos- Operations Manager  
Bellflower, CA

Reliable Fishing Products  
Paul Robbins- Owner  
Orange County, CA

Picante Sportfishing  
Tony Craig- Sales Manager  
Chino Hills, CA

Whopper Stoppers  
Ed Robison- Owner  
Riverside, CA

Convict Lake Resort  
Charles Porter- Marketing Manager  
Mammoth Lakes, CA

SoCalReels- Pulliam Enterprise  
Paul Pulliam- Owner  
San Diego, CA

Pro Towers  
Mike Byrum- Owner  
Lakewood, CA

SoCalReels  
Robb Le Tourneau- Captain  
San Diego, CA

Get Some Sports  
John Anderson- President  
San Clemente, CA

Thresher Boats  
Brandon Wesselink- Owner  
San Clemente, CA

West Coast Trailers  
Wayne Redmond- Owner  
Huntington Beach, CA

Ketcham Tackle  
Jason Ketcham- Owner  
Costa Mesa, CA

Sportfishing Financial  
Rick Jensen- Owner  
San Juan Capistrano, CA

Seasons Sportfishing  
Jamie Thinnes- Owner  
San Diego, CA

New Fishall Bait Co  
Kent Williams- Owner  
Gardena, CA

Cowbuoy Sportfishing  
Scott Wilson- Owner  
San Diego, CA

Chark Bait  
Mark Smith- Owner  
Huntington Beach, CA

Toro Tamer  
Nadiya Smith- Owner  
Huntington Beach, CA

Spear America  
Petros Yiannikouros- Owner  
Irvine, CA

The Boardroom Charters  
Todd Mansour- Captain  
Dana Point, CA

San Diego Tackle Traders  
Dave Nichols- Owner  
San Diego, CA
Harbor Boat Rentals
Landon Yacobucci- Captain
Dana Point, CA

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Jack Kaneoka- Owner
Brea, CA

FPS Consulting
Ron Wade- Owner
Orange County, CA

Freedom Boat Club- Parker Boats
Peter Axelrod- Members Executive
Orange County, CA

Shannon Rose Sportfishing
Erik Carmack- Captain
Dana Point, CA

SOS Marine
Chris Spillers- Owner
Santa Ana, CA

FIA Insurance Services Inc
Tim Manaka- President
Pasadena, CA

Pacific Properties Service
Michael Farrior- CEO/Founder
San Diego, CA

Banzai Jerky
Ben Aoki- Owner
Fountain Valley, CA

Bungalow Bay Co
Joseph Sabina- CFO
Long Beach, CA

Baja Fish Gear
Ed Tschernoscha- Owner
Lomita, CA

Blue Wave Jewelry
Paul Hansen- Owner
Newport Beach, CA

GMC Sports
Gregg Chow- Owner
Fullerton, CA

Richard D Ross Construction Inc.
Richard Ross- President
Concord, CA

Hott Stuff Sports
Rich Erwin- Owner
Riverside, CA

Bomboy Fishing Lures
Bomboy Llanes- Owner
Kailuna Koa, HI

Yes Bay Lodge Alaska
Nicky Martinez- Chef/General Manager
Ketchikan, AK

Katmai Lodge- Alaska
Bob Kantor- Operations Manager
King Salmon, AK

Nautilus Reels
Kristen Mustad- Owner
Miami, FL

Salmon Catcher Lodge
Terence Johnson- Owner
Kenai, AK

Tibor Reels
Marianne Papa- Vice President
Delray Beach, FL

Fishology Alaska
Mark Wackler- Owner
Soldotna, AK

Duncanby Lodge
Dave Logan- Regional Manager
British Columbia, Canada

Scent Blazer Lures
Mike Rennie- Pro Staff/Distribution
Sydney, Australia
Halco Tackle Company
K Neil Patrick- Chairman
Fremantle, Australia

Jen Wren Sportfishing
Mark Rayor- Owner/Captain
Baja California, Mexico

Baja Fishing Convoys
Orchid Martinez- Owner/President
Baja California, Mexico

Pro-Cure
Phil Pirone- President
Salem, OR

Bob Rees’ Guide Service
Bob Rees- Owner
Tillamook, OR