

From: [crfbc](#)
To: [Haight, Glenn E \(DFG\)](#)
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Glenn Haight,
Board of fish and game.

I am urging extending the Clarence southern Sablefish longline season.

I have been unable to harvest my total Sablefish quota twice in the last 4 years due to killer whales.

In trying to harvest my quota, once the killer whale finds me they will prey upon my gear removing all my Sablefish.

In trying to catch my quota when the killer whales are predated on me I estimate I get 20% killer whales 80%. I come to this conclusion by comparing my catch when they are no predated on me.

If my information is not acceptable consult the survey vessel the state highers and the state employees on that vessel that do the Clarence survey. For the past few years they have experienced ever increasing killer whale predation.

But this is not the only effect the killer whale is causing. I am also , as are many of the vessels fishing their Clarence quota, running much more gear , causing a higher level of by catch, (this is exactly what the state is trying to end in the trawl industry). I also need the tools to curb bycatch. With the tools we can curb or eliminate.by catch.

This can be done in a few ways.

1. Extending the harvest season so we can fish when the killer whale is not present.
2. Allow the longline permit holder the option to use pots. (pot gear is already legal gear in Clarence) and (in Prince William Sound the state has set president to allow longline permit holders to use pots)

Finally this killer whale predation is causing unforeseen economic harm to me, my crew and there families, because of higher bait cost, (12,000 dollars) this year verse typically 4,000.00 dollars. The loss of quota I could not harvest this year. Higher fuel cost and wear and tear on equipment.

Thank you for your time

Bill Connor