**GAVIN NEWSOM**
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Chuck Bonham
Director, CA Department of Fish and Wildlife
1416 9th Street, 12th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Eric Sklar
President, CA Fish and Game Commission
1416 9th Street, Suite 1320
Sacramento, CA 95814

September 7, 2017

Dear Director Bonham and President Sklar,

I am writing to thank you for your commitment to use California's authority and expertise to develop a collaborative solution that results in an environmentally and economically sustainable swordfish fishery. Marine animals commonly caught as bycatch have more value if left alive rather than incidentally caught in drift gillnets. At the same time, the state's fishing industry is an important part of California's coastal heritage, and policies should encourage economically viable, sustainable fisheries.

The Fish and Game Commission and the Department of Fish and Wildlife's history of supporting bycatch reduction methods has contributed to progress in reducing the unintended mortality of marine animals, and I applaud your agencies' interest in continuing to pursue balanced policies for this fishery. Your relationship with stakeholders from both the NGO community and the fishing industry allows the unique opportunity to collaboratively develop solutions that reduce bycatch while simultaneously bolstering the fishery's viability for participants. Supporting the authorization of deep-set buoy gear by the Pacific Fishery Management Council will give fishermen the option to use more sustainable gear, and widespread adoption of this new gear can be facilitated by a transition or phase-out plan. Your interest in developing these options, which requires short and long-term planning at multiple levels of government, is commendable for its comprehensive approach and collaboration with stakeholders and agencies.

California's environmental policy seeks to attain environmental protections while preserving or creating economic opportunity. Just as the state's policy on climate change has enabled the state

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to aggressively reduce greenhouse gas emissions while promoting economic growth, improving the environmental sustainability of the swordfish fishery should not happen at the expense of the fishery's economic sustainability. Your efforts to engage with stakeholders and represent their interests in decision-making at state and federal levels is a shining example of the state's ability to develop balanced, stakeholder-driven policy.

My office stands ready to support your efforts and I look forward to a progress report in the near future.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM
Lieutenant Governor
State of California

CC: Phil Anderson, Chair, Pacific Fishery Management Council