

Please accept my comments on amendment 16 and please share with other council members.

Amendment 16 action 1.

I support alternative 9b, I could live with 9a if need be and go to [April 30th](#) in 9a if needed

If the crabbers of the SA are going to be able to continue to fish inshore of us why should we have to go to 25 meters.

I could also live with alternative 10 and you could adjust the dates as needed to be more inclusive.

I know that the other actions in 16 address LINE STRENGTH, WEAK LINKS and specific line marking for the BSB POT FISHERY.

I know that the council will be challenged to get through action 1 but just wanted to comment briefly.

Line Strength: At This time line strength in relation to the protection to whales is just a theory! I do think though that this is a good time to be pro-active if possible instead of having to react to an entanglement. With that being said I spoke to 4 fisherman and we can live with a 1,200 lb breaking strength and this comes from using a 1/4 " line. It was strongly suggested to me to just pick a value in pounds and the gear experts will tell us what we can use to be in compliance.

Weak link: same thing pick a value in pounds and the gear experts Glenn Salvador and John Kenny will give us everything we need to be in compliance.

Line Marking: I was speaking to large whale team coordinator Kate Swails [this morning](#) and will have a color for us by the end of the month. In NC it is 3 12" marks now. If we go to 2 colors it would be 2 x 6" marks 3 places for a total of 3 x 12" marks. For just to the south of us that are required to have 2 colors now it would be 3 x 6" marks and down by Jimmy Hull 2 x 6" marks as we will do in NC and I think we can set it up to distinguish between Jimmy and us in NC. The way it was described to me is that when the council chooses a color and a line marking scheme and it becomes rule the ALWTRT will adopt it and make it part of the Large Whale Take reduction Plan.

Thank you for your hard work on this amendment.

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