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Item 24

My name is Manny Gorgita. I'm a third generation lobster fisherman from Santa Barbara. Over the 25 years I've fished lobster, I've invested quite a bit into the lobster fishery: a custom aluminum lobster boat, and a slip in Santa Barbara.

I want to talk about the fact that some of the lobster permits being considered in the new Plan are not going to be transferable. In plain English, that's **not fair**. The Department has flat-out told us "we can't talk about this." And this is while the Department just finished making all tiers of Dungeness Crab permits transferable.

From a business investment standpoint, this non-transferable permit is a death knell for my business, because I not only can't transfer the permit, but the value of my boat, when I retire, is going to be way less without the lobster permit.

Right now, anybody rich guy can buy a boat, a permit, and four or five hundred traps and go out lobster fishing with no experience. What happens is that guy will just go dump his traps on top of experienced lobstermen, reducing catch for everyone.

From 2010 to 2012, there were over 33,000 lobster hoop net permits out there who can catch 7 lobsters a night. That's 231,000 lobsters and if each hoop netter goes out twice a month during season and limits, that's over 2.3 million lobsters taken. Nearly 3 million pounds. And that doesn't include the party boat scuba divers who limit out at night.

In 2012, about 900,000 pounds of lobster was landed by commercial fishermen.

Many of the non-transferable permittees have fished lobster longer than a lot of the transferable permits, but for a variety of reasons (working in several fisheries is one), didn't land enough during the qualifying period to get the transferable permit.

We feel like we can come up with a good and fair program for all permits to be transferable if given the opportunity, and we'd like to work with the Department and Commission to achieve that goal.

Thank you.