

RECEIVED

OCT 22 2012

PFMC



AMERICAN CETACEAN SOCIETY

October 15, 2012

Pacific Fishery Management Council
Dan Wolford, Chairman
7700 N.E. Ambassador Place, Suite 101
Portland, Oregon 97220-1384

Dear Chairman Wolford and Council Members:

We appreciate the Council's decision in June recognizing forage fish as the cornerstone of a productive marine ecosystem along the Pacific coast. Forage fish are the lifeblood of a healthy ocean. We ask that you keep on track to fulfill your commitment to prohibit new fisheries targeting forage species that aren't yet being fished, starting with timely adoption of a strong Fishery Ecosystem Plan.

Our coastal ecosystem is under increasing pressure. The Pacific marine environment is affected by large-scale changes in climate, coastal habitat degradation, invasive species, and rising demand to feed a growing world. A resilient ecosystem depends first and foremost on a balanced food web, which is why conservation of prey fish is widely recognized as a pillar of ecosystem-based fishery management.

A meaningful Fishery Ecosystem Plan should include an index measuring forage abundance along the West Coast. Additionally, it should help the Council maximize the benefits we derive from the ocean by weighing the tradeoffs between large-scale fisheries targeting prey fish versus leaving them in the water to feed ocean wildlife and high-value predators like salmon, tuna and halibut.

The Council's top priority should be to ensure the stability of the marine ecosystem and existing fisheries here on the Pacific coast. Adequate conservation of forage fish may be the single most important action the council can take to protect the Pacific marine ecosystem – and the fishermen and coastal communities that depend on it.

Thank you for your work on this important issue.

Sincerely,



Oregon Chapter of the American Cetacean Society

RECEIVED

OCT 22 2012

PFMC



AMERICAN CETACEAN SOCIETY

October 15, 2012

Pacific Fishery Management Council
Dan Wolford, Chairman
7700 N.E. Ambassador Place, Suite 101
Portland, Oregon 97220-1384

Dear Chairman Wolford and Council Members:

We appreciate the Council's decision in June recognizing forage fish as the cornerstone of a productive marine ecosystem along the Pacific coast. Forage fish are the lifeblood of a healthy ocean. We ask that you keep on track to fulfill your commitment to prohibit new fisheries targeting forage species that aren't yet being fished, starting with timely adoption of a strong Fishery Ecosystem Plan.

Our coastal ecosystem is under increasing pressure. The Pacific marine environment is affected by large-scale changes in climate, coastal habitat degradation, invasive species, and rising demand to feed a growing world. A resilient ecosystem depends first and foremost on a balanced food web, which is why conservation of prey fish is widely recognized as a pillar of ecosystem-based fishery management.

A meaningful Fishery Ecosystem Plan should include an index measuring forage abundance along the West Coast. Additionally, it should help the Council maximize the benefits we derive from the ocean by weighing the tradeoffs between large-scale fisheries targeting prey fish versus leaving them in the water to feed ocean wildlife and high-value predators like salmon, tuna and halibut.

The Council's top priority should be to ensure the stability of the marine ecosystem and existing fisheries here on the Pacific coast. Adequate conservation of forage fish may be the single most important action the council can take to protect the Pacific marine ecosystem – and the fishermen and coastal communities that depend on it.

Thank you for your work on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dyanita B. Appel". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Oregon Chapter of the American Cetacean Society

RECEIVED

OCT 22 2012

PFMC



AMERICAN CETACEAN SOCIETY

October 15, 2012

Pacific Fishery Management Council
Dan Wolford, Chairman
7700 N.E. Ambassador Place, Suite 101
Portland, Oregon 97220-1384

Dear Chairman Wolford and Council Members:

We appreciate the Council's decision in June recognizing forage fish as the cornerstone of a productive marine ecosystem along the Pacific coast. Forage fish are the lifeblood of a healthy ocean. We ask that you keep on track to fulfill your commitment to prohibit new fisheries targeting forage species that aren't yet being fished, starting with timely adoption of a strong Fishery Ecosystem Plan.

Our coastal ecosystem is under increasing pressure. The Pacific marine environment is affected by large-scale changes in climate, coastal habitat degradation, invasive species, and rising demand to feed a growing world. A resilient ecosystem depends first and foremost on a balanced food web, which is why conservation of prey fish is widely recognized as a pillar of ecosystem-based fishery management.

A meaningful Fishery Ecosystem Plan should include an index measuring forage abundance along the West Coast. Additionally, it should help the Council maximize the benefits we derive from the ocean by weighing the tradeoffs between large-scale fisheries targeting prey fish versus leaving them in the water to feed ocean wildlife and high-value predators like salmon, tuna and halibut.

The Council's top priority should be to ensure the stability of the marine ecosystem and existing fisheries here on the Pacific coast. Adequate conservation of forage fish may be the single most important action the council can take to protect the Pacific marine ecosystem – and the fishermen and coastal communities that depend on it.

Thank you for your work on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dan Wolford', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Oregon Chapter of the American Cetacean Society



AMERICAN CETACEAN SOCIETY

October 15, 2012

Pacific Fishery Management Council
Dan Wolford, Chairman
7700 N.E. Ambassador Place, Suite 101
Portland, Oregon 97220-1384

Dear Chairman Wolford and Council Members:

We appreciate the Council's decision in June recognizing forage fish as the cornerstone of a productive marine ecosystem along the Pacific coast. Forage fish are the lifeblood of a healthy ocean. We ask that you keep on track to fulfill your commitment to prohibit new fisheries targeting forage species that aren't yet being fished, starting with timely adoption of a strong Fishery Ecosystem Plan.

Our coastal ecosystem is under increasing pressure. The Pacific marine environment is affected by large-scale changes in climate, coastal habitat degradation, invasive species, and rising demand to feed a growing world. A resilient ecosystem depends first and foremost on a balanced food web, which is why conservation of prey fish is widely recognized as a pillar of ecosystem-based fishery management.

A meaningful Fishery Ecosystem Plan should include an index measuring forage abundance along the West Coast. Additionally, it should help the Council maximize the benefits we derive from the ocean by weighing the tradeoffs between large-scale fisheries targeting prey fish versus leaving them in the water to feed ocean wildlife and high-value predators like salmon, tuna and halibut.

The Council's top priority should be to ensure the stability of the marine ecosystem and existing fisheries here on the Pacific coast. Adequate conservation of forage fish may be the single most important action the council can take to protect the Pacific marine ecosystem – and the fishermen and coastal communities that depend on it.

Thank you for your work on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Oregon Chapter of the American Cetacean Society