February 24, 2010

Mr. Dave Ortmann, Chair &
Dr. Don McIsaac, Executive Director
Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place #200
Portland, OR 97220-1384

RE: Agenda item H.3.c. – Public Comment

Dear Chairman Ortmann, Dr. McIsaac, and Council members,

I am a sardine fisherman from Bellingham, Washington. My vessels have operated out of Astoria, Oregon since 1999. I have attended many Council meetings in the past and am sorry I couldn’t be there this time. I am writing to encourage you to support the EFP for continuing the West Coast Sardine Aerial Survey.

Last year’s EFP saved the sardine fishery for 2010! Without last year’s EFP the necessary work to begin establishing a second index of abundance for the stock assessment model would not have happened and there would be no fishery this year. Last year the industry and some scientists were able to develop a plan, have it approved by the STAR panel, and get the results included in the stock assessment. It was a truly remarkable endeavor. None of this success would have happened without the support of the Council and I am very appreciative of your efforts.

I hope that you will approve the 2010 EFP and allow us to continue what we started and make the “best available” science even better. It is even more important this year to keep this project going and keep gathering data that can be used in the assessment for years to come. I hope the Council continues to support the contributions of industry now and in the future.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.

Regards,

Ryan Kapp