Truckee River Chapter of Trout Unlimited
Chapter #103

March 24, 2014

Submitted Electronically to: pfmc.comments@noaa.gov

Re: Forage Fish

Dear Chair Lowman and Council Members,

We are writing you today on behalf of the Truckee River Chapter of Trout Unlimited, located in Truckee, CA. The Council has made steady progress over the past two years in laying the groundwork for establishing regulatory protections for currently unmanaged forage fish species. Today, I ask that you select alternative 2.2.1 as the preliminary preferred option for protecting currently unmanaged forage fish by incorporating them into all of the council’s existing fishery management plans as ecosystem component species.

During your meeting in April, I encourage you to pick alternative 2.2.1 as the preliminary preferred option and release the range of alternatives for public comment. The Council’s Ecosystem Working Group has delivered a new report justifying your decision to conserve these forage species, because of their importance to the health of our salmonids sport fishery recovery, California Current ecosystem and because of growing worldwide demand to catch them.

These steps will ensure that the Council achieves its goal of basic management protections for unmanaged forage fish. In so doing, you will fulfill the first initiative of the Council’s Fishery Ecosystem Plan, a visionary document that the council approved unanimously a year ago.

By protecting forage fish as a key link in the marine food web, we can maintain a healthy marine ecosystem, including the valuable sustainable fisheries we rely upon. Each year we spend countless hours and dollars working on inland habitat issues for trout and salmon, protecting those fish they eat in the open ocean is a simple cost effective method to ensure our work on land pays off for those fish as they return to their ocean habitat.

Thank you for your continued commitment to maintain a healthy and productive Pacific Ocean, and please don’t hesitate to contact us directly at any time.

Sincerely,

John Jewett
Truckee River Chapter #103; President
10356 Donner Pass Rd. Suite B
Truckee, CA 96161
(530) 587-7110
Re: Support for Adoption of Alternative 2.2.1 as Preferred Option for Currently Unmanaged Forage Fish Species

Dear Members of the Pacific Fisheries Management Council,

Mayfly Group, including its affiliate companies, has been in the fly fishing industry since 1973. We own and operate some of leading brands in the sport and have been active in protection of wildlife and fishing habits.

In this spirit, we the request that you act during your April 2014 meeting to better protect forage fish species, and the salmonids (salmon, steelhead, and sea-run trout) that depend on them during their ocean life stage.

The Council has made steady progress over the past two years in laying the groundwork for establishing regulatory protections for currently unmanaged forage fish species. Please institutionalize this progress by selecting Alternative 2.2.1 as the preliminary preferred option for protecting currently unmanaged forage fish by incorporating them into all of the Council’s existing fishery management plans as ecosystem component species.

The Council’s Ecosystem Working Group has delivered a new report justifying your decision to conserve these forage species, because of their importance to our salmonid populations and the sport and commercial fisheries that depend on them, their critical role in the California Current ecosystem, and because of growing worldwide demand to harvest forage fish.

The steps laid out in Alternative 2.2.1 will ensure that the Council achieves its goal of basic management protections for currently unmanaged forage fish. By protecting forage fish as a key link in the marine food web, we can sustain a healthy marine ecosystem and the fishing heritage and economies that depend on this ecosystem.
Each year Trout Unlimited spends hundreds of thousands of volunteer-hours and millions of dollars to conserve, protect and restore inland habitat for trout and salmon. Protecting their primary food source in the open ocean is a sensible, cost-effective tactic to ensure our work on land delivers its full promise: self-sustaining runs of wild salmon and steelhead in their native watersheds.

Thank you for your commitment to keeping the Pacific Ocean healthy and productive.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

David C Dragoo
President
Bluebacks Trout Unlimited Chapter #196
900 NW Kings Blvd.
Corvallis, Oregon 97330
(541)230-1716
bluebacks@TUn@gmail.com
www.bluebacks.org

Re: Forage Fish

Dear Chair Lowman and Council Members,

We are writing you today on behalf of the Truckee River Chapter of Trout Unlimited, located in Truckee, CA. The Council has made steady progress over the past two years in laying the groundwork for establishing regulatory protections for currently unmanaged forage fish species. Today, I ask that you select alternative 2.2.1 as the preliminary preferred option for protecting currently unmanaged forage fish by incorporating them into all of the council’s existing fishery management plans as ecosystem component species.

During your meeting in April, I encourage you to pick alternative 2.2.1 as the preliminary preferred option and release the range of alternatives for public comment. The Council’s Ecosystem Working Group has delivered a new report justifying your decision to conserve these forage species, because of their importance to the health of our salmonids sport fishery recovery, California Current ecosystem and because of growing worldwide demand to catch them.

These steps will ensure that the Council achieves its goal of basic management protections for unmanaged forage fish. In so doing, you will fulfill the first initiative of the Council’s Fishery Ecosystem Plan, a visionary document that the council approved unanimously a year ago.

By protecting forage fish as a key link in the marine food web, we can maintain a healthy marine ecosystem, including the valuable sustainable fisheries we rely upon. Each year we spend countless hours and dollars working on inland habitat issues for trout and salmon, protecting those fish they eat in the open ocean is a simple cost effective method to ensure our work on land pays off for those fish as they return to their ocean habitat.

Thank you for your continued commitment to maintain a healthy and productive Pacific Ocean, and please don’t hesitate to contact us directly at any time.

Sincerely,

Kyle Smith, President of Blueback’s Trout Unlimited Chapter 196
PO Box 238
Corvallis, OR 97339
March 28, 2014

Re: Support for Adoption of Alternative 2.2.1 as Preferred Option for Currently Unmanaged Forage Fish Species

Dear Members of the Pacific Fisheries Management Council,

Deep Creek FlyFishers, Inc. requests that you act during your April 2014 meeting to better protect forage fish species, and the salmonids (salmon, steelhead, and sea-run trout) that depend on them during their ocean life stage.

The Council has made steady progress over the past two years in laying the groundwork for establishing regulatory protections for currently unmanaged forage fish species. Please institutionalize this progress by selecting Alternative 2.2.1 as the preliminary preferred option for protecting currently unmanaged forage fish by incorporating them into all of the Council’s existing fishery management plans as ecosystem component species.

The Council’s Ecosystem Working Group has delivered a new report justifying your decision to conserve these forage species, because of their importance to our salmonid populations and the sport and commercial fisheries that depend on them, their critical role in the California Current ecosystem, and because of growing worldwide demand to harvest forage fish.

The steps laid out in Alternative 2.2.1 will ensure that the Council achieves its goal of basic management protections for currently unmanaged forage fish. By protecting forage fish as a key link in the marine food web, we can sustain a healthy marine ecosystem and the fishing heritage and economies that depend on this ecosystem.

Each year Trout Unlimited spends hundreds of thousands of volunteer-hours and millions of dollars to conserve, protect and restore inland habitat for trout and salmon. Protecting their primary food source in the open ocean is a sensible, cost-effective tactic to ensure our work on land delivers its full promise: self-sustaining runs of wild salmon and steelhead in their native watersheds.

Thank you for your commitment to keeping the Pacific Ocean healthy and productive.

Sincerely,

Robin A. Johnson
President
Deep Creek FlyFishers, Inc.
Thank you for your commitment to keeping the Pacific Ocean healthy and productive.

I think you've heard me deliver this full promise: self-sustaining runs of wild salmon and their primary food source in the open ocean is a scandal. For centuries, illegal to unsustainable practices have depleted hundreds of thousands of salmon runs and millions of pots and gillnetters in the process. Each year, thousands of salmon are lost in this process.

The steps laid out in Alternative 2.2.1 will ensure that the Council achieves its goal of maintaining healthy marine ecosystems and restoring their critical role in the Columbia River ecosystem, and because of growing worldwide demand for these species of fish, we need all of the Council's ecosystem management plan components, including the preferred option for protecting currently unmanaged forage fish. We are pleased to hear the Council has made steady progress over the past two years in laying the groundwork.

We, Galvan Fly Reels, request that you act during your April 2014 meeting to better serve Member of the Pacific Fishery Management Council.

Date: April 2, 2014

Portland, Oregon 97220-1384
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101
Pacific Fishery Management Council
April 7, 2014

Re: Support for Adoption of Alternative 2.2.1 as Preferred Option for Currently Unmanaged Forage Fish Species

Dear Members of the Pacific Fisheries Management Council,

We, the Golden State Flycasters Chapter of Trout Unlimited, request that you act during your April 2014 meeting to better protect forage fish species, and the salmonids (salmon, steelhead, and sea-run trout) that depend on them during their ocean life stage.

The Council has made steady progress over the past two years in laying the groundwork for establishing regulatory protections for currently unmanaged forage fish species. Please institutionalize this progress by selecting Alternative 2.2.1 as the preliminary preferred option for protecting currently unmanaged forage fish by incorporating them into all of the Council’s existing fishery management plans as ecosystem component species.

The Council’s Ecosystem Working Group has delivered a new report justifying your decision to conserve these forage species, because of their importance to our salmonid populations and the sport and commercial fisheries that depend on them, their critical role in the California Current ecosystem, and because of growing worldwide demand to harvest forage fish.

The steps laid out in Alternative 2.2.1 will ensure that the Council achieves its goal of basic management protections for currently unmanaged forage fish. By protecting forage fish as a key link in the marine food web, we can sustain a healthy marine ecosystem and the fishing heritage and economies that depend on this ecosystem.

Each year Trout Unlimited spends hundreds of thousands of volunteer-hours and millions of dollars to conserve, protect and restore inland habitat for trout and salmon. Protecting their primary food source in the open ocean is a sensible, cost-effective tactic to ensure our work on land delivers its full promise: self-sustaining runs of wild salmon and steelhead in their native watersheds.

Thank you for your commitment to keeping the Pacific Ocean healthy and productive.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Wayne Johnson
President – Golden State Flycasters Trout Unlimited
April 7, 2014

Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101
Portland, Oregon 97220-1384

Re: Support for Adoption of Alternative 2.2.1 as Preferred Option for Currently Unmanaged Forage Fish Species

Dear Members of the Pacific Fisheries Management Council,

Mountains Restoration Trust, a nonprofit public benefit organization in the Santa Monica Mountains, focuses a great deal of effort on restoring streams for the endangered southern steelhead. I respectfully request that you act during your April 2014 meeting to better protect forage fish species, and the salmonids (salmon, steelhead, and sea-run trout) that depend on them during their ocean life stage. Ensuring the local forage fish is a critical component to restoring historic spawning grounds.

Please institutionalize your wonderful work over the past two years by selecting Alternative 2.2.1 as the preliminary preferred option for protecting currently unmanaged forage fish by incorporating them into all of the Council's existing fishery management plans as ecosystem component species.

The Council's Ecosystem Working Group has delivered a new report justifying your decision to conserve these forage species, because of their importance to our salmonid populations and the sport and commercial fisheries that depend on them, their critical role in the California Current ecosystem, and because of growing worldwide demand to harvest forage fish.

The steps laid out in Alternative 2.2.1 will ensure that the Council achieves its goal of basic management protections for currently unmanaged forage fish. By protecting forage fish as a key link in the marine food web, we can sustain a healthy marine ecosystem and the fishing heritage and economies that depend on this ecosystem.

Thank you for your commitment to keeping the Pacific Ocean healthy and productive.

Regards,

Debra Sharpton
Executive Director
March 31, 2014

Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101
Portland, Oregon 97220-1384

Re: Support for Adoption of Alternative 2.2.1 as Preferred Option for Currently Unmanaged Forage Fish Species

Dear Members of the Pacific Fisheries Management Council,

We, the South Coast Chapter of Trout Unlimited, request that you act during your April 2014 meeting to better protect forage fish species, and the salmonids (salmon, steelhead, and sea-run trout) that depend on them during their ocean life stage.

The Council has made steady progress over the past two years in laying the groundwork for establishing regulatory protections for currently unmanaged forage fish species. Please institutionalize this progress by selecting Alternative 2.2.1 as the preliminary preferred option for protecting currently unmanaged forage fish by incorporating them into all of the Council's existing fishery management plans as ecosystem component species.

The Council's Ecosystem Working Group has delivered a new report justifying your decision to conserve these forage species, because of their importance to our salmonid populations and the sport and commercial fisheries that depend on them, their critical role in the California Current ecosystem, and because of growing worldwide demand to harvest forage fish.

The steps laid out in Alternative 2.2.1 will ensure that the Council achieves its goal of basic management protections for currently unmanaged forage fish. By protecting forage fish as a key link in the marine food web, we can sustain a healthy marine ecosystem and the fishing heritage and economies that depend on this ecosystem.

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Thank you for your commitment to keeping the Pacific Ocean healthy and productive.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Robert Blankenship, B.A.
President – South Coast Chapter Trout Unlimited
March 31, 2014

Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101
Portland, Oregon 97220-1384

Re: Support for Adoption of Alternative 2.2.1 as Preferred Option for Currently Unmanaged Forage Fish Species

Dear Members of the Pacific Fisheries Management Council,

We, the South Coast Chapter of Trout Unlimited, request that you act during your April 2014 meeting to better protect forage fish species, and the salmonids (salmon, steelhead, and sea-run trout) that depend on them during their ocean life stage.

The Council has made steady progress over the past two years in laying the groundwork for establishing regulatory protections for currently unmanaged forage fish species. Please institutionalize this progress by selecting Alternative 2.2.1 as the preliminary preferred option for protecting currently unmanaged forage fish by incorporating them into all of the Council's existing fishery management plans as ecosystem component species.

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Thank you for your commitment to keeping the Pacific Ocean healthy and productive.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Robert Blankenship, B.A.
President – South Coast Chapter Trout Unlimited
April 7, 2014

Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101
Portland, Oregon 97220-1384

Re: Support for Adoption of Alternative 2.2.1 as Preferred Option for Currently Unmanaged Forage Fish Species

Dear Members of the Pacific Fisheries Management Council,

Sierra Pacific Flyfishers (SPFF) request that you act during your April 2014 meeting to better protect forage fish species, and the salmonids (salmon, steelhead, and sea-run trout) that depend on them during their ocean life stage. SPFF works with partner agencies and nonprofits to bring back the spawning grounds of the endangered southern steelhead, we need you to protect its forage food in the ocean.

The Council has made steady progress over the past two years in laying the groundwork for establishing regulatory protections for currently unmanaged forage fish species. Please institutionalize this progress by selecting Alternative 2.2.1 as the preliminary preferred option for protecting currently unmanaged forage fish by incorporating them into all of the Council's existing fishery management plans as ecosystem component species.

The Council's Ecosystem Working Group has delivered a new report justifying your decision to conserve these forage species, because of their importance to our salmonid populations and the sport and commercial fisheries that depend on them, their critical role in the California Current ecosystem, and because of growing worldwide demand to harvest forage fish.

The steps laid out in Alternative 2.2.1 will ensure that the Council achieves its goal of basic management protections for currently unmanaged forage fish. By protecting forage fish as a key link in the marine food web, we can sustain a healthy marine ecosystem and the fishing heritage and economies that depend on this ecosystem.

Thank you for your commitment to keeping the Pacific Ocean healthy and productive.

Sincerely,

William O’Kelly
President
April 7, 2014

Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101
Portland, Oregon 97220-1384

Re: Support for Adoption of Alternative 2.2.1 as Preferred Option for Currently Unmanaged Forage Fish Species

Dear Members of the Pacific Fisheries Management Council,

The Southwest Council of the International Federation of Fly Fishers (SWC-IFFF) is a 4,000+ member council of clubs in the southern California region. As conservation vice-president of SWC-IFFF, I respectfully request that you act during your April 2014 meeting to better protect forage fish species, and the salmonids (salmon, steelhead, and sea-run trout) that depend on them during their ocean life stage. We are working hard to return the southern steelhead to our waters, insuring the local forage fish is a critical component to restoring historic spawning grounds.

Please institutionalize your wonderful work over the past two years by selecting Alternative 2.2.1 as the preliminary preferred option for protecting currently unmanaged forage fish by incorporating them into all of the Council's existing fishery management plans as ecosystem component species.

The Council’s Ecosystem Working Group has delivered a new report justifying your decision to conserve these forage species, because of their importance to our salmonid populations and the sport and commercial fisheries that depend on them, their critical role in the California Current ecosystem, and because of growing worldwide demand to harvest forage fish.

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Thank you for your commitment to keeping the Pacific Ocean healthy and productive.

Regards,

[Signature]
Debra Sharpton
Conservation Vice President
196 Stonehaven Lane, Oak Park, CA 91377
April 9, 2014

Re: Forage Fish

Dear Chair Lowman and Pacific Fisheries Management Council Members,

We are writing you today on behalf of the Tualatin Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited, located in Portland, OR. The Council has made steady progress over the past two years in laying the groundwork for establishing regulatory protections for currently unmanaged forage fish species. Today, I ask that you select alternative 2.2.1 as the preliminary preferred option for protecting currently unmanaged forage fish by incorporating them into all of the council’s existing fishery management plans as ecosystem component species.

During your meeting in April, I encourage you to pick alternative 2.2.1 as the preliminary preferred option and release the range of alternatives for public comment. The Council’s Ecosystem Working Group has delivered a new report justifying your decision to conserve these forage species, because of their importance to the health of our salmonids sport fishery recovery, California Current ecosystem and because of growing worldwide demand to catch them.

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By protecting forage fish as a key link in the marine food web, we can maintain a healthy marine ecosystem, including the valuable sustainable fisheries we rely upon. Each year we spend countless hours and dollars working on inland habitat issues for trout and salmon, protecting those fish they eat in the open ocean is a simple cost effective method to ensure our work on land pays off for those fish as they return to their ocean habitat.

Thank you for your continued commitment to maintain a healthy and productive Pacific Ocean, and please don’t hesitate to contact us directly at any time.

Sincerely,

Erle Norman
President, Tualatin Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited
6152 SW Nevada Ct.
Portland, OR 97219
March 28, 2014

Dear Chair Lowman and Council Members,

The Washington Council of Trout Unlimited is very mindful of the importance of forage fish in our marine waters to our native salmon and steelhead. We greatly appreciate the steps you are taking to help protect this important corner stone of the food web and Pacific NW ecosystem. The steps you take to protect and properly manage these resources have far reaching effects well inland.

The Council has made steady progress over the past two years in laying the groundwork for establishing regulatory protections for currently unmanaged forage fish species. Today, we ask that you select alternative 2.2.1 as the preliminary preferred option for protecting currently unmanaged forage fish by incorporating them into all of the council’s existing fishery management plans as ecosystem component species.

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Thank you for your continued commitment to maintain a healthy and productive Pacific Ocean.

Respectfully,

Rosendo Guerrero
Chairman/ Washington Council of Trout Unlimited
Email: rosendo.tu@gmail.com