

**CALIFORNIA WETFISH PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION**

**2194 SIGNAL PLACE  
SAN PEDRO, CA 90731**

OCTOBER 25, 2002

DR. HANS RADTKE, CHAIR AND  
MEMBERS OF THE PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL  
7700 NE AMBASSADOR PLACE, SUITE 200  
PORTLAND, OR 97220

SUBJECT: SPECIAL REQUEST FOR EMERGENCY ACTION RE: 2002 SARDINE

DEAR DR. RADTKE AND COUNCIL MEMBERS,

ORLANDO AMOROSO  
SOUTHERN CA.  
COMMERCIAL  
FISHING ASSOC.

VANESSA DELUCA  
STATE FISH  
COMPANY

JOHN CAR  
TRI-MARINE FISH CO.

PETE GUGLIELMO  
SOUTHERN CA  
SEAFOOD

FRANK TOMICH  
TOMICH BROS.  
SEAFOOD

PETER DIVONA  
CRS / STANDARD  
SEAFOOD

JOE BURCH  
OCEAN GEM  
SEAFOOD

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REPRESENTING  
30 PURSE SEINE  
VESSEL OWNERS  
WHO EMPLOY  
270 FISHERMEN  
AND  
6 COMPANIES WITH  
1206 EMPLOYEES

WE GREATLY APPRECIATE YOUR CONSIDERATION OF THIS SPECIAL REQUEST TO RECOMMEND THAT NMFS PROCEED WITH AN EMERGENCY RULEMAKING TO OPEN ANY UNUSED SARDINE ALLOCATION TO HARVEST BY ALL USERS EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 1.

WE HAVE RECEIVED WORD THAT THE EL NIÑO FORECAST FOR THIS WINTER HAS REACHED PERU WITH MORE FORCE THAN ANTICIPATED. CWPA MEMBERS NOW REPORT THAT SQUID FISHING IS HIT-AND-MISS, WHERE IT WAS PRODUCTIVE JUST A WEEK AGO.

THE REALLOCATION PROCESS IMPLEMENTED IN SEPTEMBER BY RECOMMENDATION OF THE COUNCIL HAS REDUCED THE SOUTHERN CA SARDINE ALLOCATION BY 50 PERCENT, LEAVING 20,000 TONS OR LESS FOR THE REMAINDER OF 2002. CWPA MEMBERS FEAR THIS AMOUNT WILL BE INSUFFICIENT IN THE ABSENCE OF SQUID.

IN SEPTEMBER THE COUNCIL RECOMMENDED THAT NMFS IMPLEMENT AN EMERGENCY RULEMAKING TO OFFSET ECONOMIC HARDSHIP TO THE NORTHERN SARDINE FISHERY, AND TO BETTER UTILIZE THE OPTIMUM YIELD SET FOR THE FISHERY.

OUR REQUEST FOR SIMILAR RECOMMENDATION IS BASED ON THE SAME JUSTIFICATIONS: THE REMAINING NORTHERN ALLOCATION LIKELY WILL NOT BE FULLY UTILIZED BY DECEMBER 1, AND IN THE ABSENCE OF SQUID, COUPLED WITH INSUFFICIENT REMAINING SARDINE ALLOCATION, THE SOUTHERN FISHERY WILL ALSO SUFFER ECONOMIC HARDSHIP.

FOLLOWING THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC FORMULA PROVIDED IN THE COUNCIL'S SEPTEMBER 18 LETTER TO NMFS, BUT APPLIED TO THE SOUTHERN FISHERY:

THE CALIFORNIA WETFISH PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION CURRENTLY REPRESENTS 30 PURSE SEINE VESSELS WHICH EMPLOY 270 FISHERMEN, AND SIX PROCESSORS WHICH EMPLOY IN AGGREGATE 1,206 EMPLOYEES. THIS REPRESENTS THE MAJORITY, BUT NOT ALL, SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SARDINE FISHERY PARTICIPANTS. PROCESSING CAPACITY IN THE SOUTHERN FISHERY IS APPROX. 1,900 METRIC TONS PER DAY.

EACH DAY THIS AMOUNT COULD POTENTIALLY PROVIDE:

--MORE THAN 1,206 PROCESSING JOBS: AT \$128 PER DAY, THIS REPRESENTS ABOUT \$155,000 PER DAY IN POTENTIAL INCOME FOR CWPA EMPLOYEES ALONE.

--1,900 MT AT \$88-\$100 PER MT EX-VESSEL VALUE PROVIDES ABOUT \$167,200-\$190,000 PER DAY IN FISHERMEN'S SALES. WITH A MULTIPLIER OF THREE, DAILY FISHERMEN'S REVENUE REPRESENTS \$501,600-\$570,000 DAILY INCOME TO THE COMMUNITY.



SOUTHERN CA PROCESSORS PRODUCE A VARIETY OF PRODUCTS, INCLUDING HAND-PACKED LONG-LINE BAIT, H&G EXPORTED FOR CANNING, IQF AND FRESH PRODUCT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION, AND BLOCK FROZEN PRODUCT FOR CANNING, BAIT AND PET FOOD. THESE PRODUCTS ARE MARKETED IN THE US AND AROUND THE WORLD. EX-PROCESSOR VALUE RANGES FROM ABOUT \$617-\$450 PER MT. AS IN THE OR AND WA FISHERIES, RECOVERY RATE IS 100 PERCENT FOR ALL BUT H&G PROCESSED PRODUCT. A DAILY PRODUCTION RATE OF 1,900 MT PRODUCES EX-PROCESSOR VALUES RANGING FROM \$1,172,300 TO \$855,000 IN DAILY PROCESSOR SALES.

CLEARLY, THE LOSS OF THIS PRODUCTION IN THE ABSENCE OF SARDINES AND SQUID WOULD REPRESENT A SIGNIFICANT ECONOMIC HARDSHIP TO THE SOUTHERN WETFISH INDUSTRY, AS WELL AS THE PORTS THAT SUPPORT IT.

TO AVOID THIS ECONOMIC HARDSHIP, WE REQUEST THE COUNCIL RECOMMEND THAT NMFS IMPLEMENT THE EMERGENCY ACTION TO OPEN ANY UNUSED HARVEST GUIDELINE TO ALL USERS, EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 1.

BY WAY OF BACKGROUND ON THE DECEMBER 1 OPEN ALLOCATION, THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME MADE THIS MANAGEMENT DECISION IN 1998, WHEN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA UTILIZED ITS ALLOCATION BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR BUT FISH REMAINED IN MONTEREY'S SUB-QUOTA. WE HOPE TO INCLUDE THIS LANGUAGE WHEN AN AMENDMENT TO THE CPS FMP IS CONSIDERED. HOWEVER THAT PROCESS WOULD NOT BE COMPLETED IN TIME TO HELP THE SOUTHERN FISHERY THIS SEASON.

THANK YOU, ONCE AGAIN, FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL AND FOR CONSIDERING THIS REQUEST.

SINCERELY,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Diane Pleschner-Steele". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

DIANE PLESCHNER-STEELE FOR  
CALIFORNIA WETFISH PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION

**From:** "John Hunter" <John.Hunter@noaa.gov>  
**Date:** Fri Oct 18, 2002 02:01:45 PM US/Pacific  
**To:** Diane Pleschner-Steele <dplesch@earthlink.net>  
**Subject:** [Fwd: [Fwd: El Niño]]

**From:** "Ron Lynn" <Ron.Lynn@noaa.gov>  
**Date:** Wed Oct 16, 2002 08:14:53 AM US/Pacific  
**To:** Ron Dotson <Ron.Dotson@noaa.gov>, John Hunter <John.Hunter@noaa.gov>, Paul Smith <Paul.Smith@noaa.gov>, darrel@coma.ucsd.edu, Ken Bliss <Ken.Bliss@noaa.gov>, John Butler <John.Butler@noaa.gov>, Nancy Lo <Nancy.Lo@noaa.gov>, Richard Charter <Richard.Charter@noaa.gov>  
**Subject:** [Fwd: El Niño]

**From:** Francisco Chavez <chfr@mbari.org>  
**Date:** Tue Oct 15, 2002 05:22:07 PM US/Pacific  
**To:** Art Miller <miller@horizon.ucsd.edu>, Baldo Marinovic <marinovic@biology.ucsc.edu>, Bertha Lavaniegas <berlav@cicese.mx>, Bill Peterson <bill.peterson@noaa.gov>, Bob Smith <rsmith@oce.orst.edu>, clint winant <odw@coast.ucsd.edu>, "Curtis A. Collins" <collins@oc.nps.navy.mil>, Dan Cayan <dcayan@ucsd.edu>, Dave Checkley <dcheckley@ucsd.edu>, Dave Mackas <MackasD@pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca>, "David B. Enfield" <enfield@ocean.aoml.erl.gov>, Dick Feely <feely@pmel.noaa.gov>, Ed Dever <edevery@ucsd.edu>, Frank Schwing <fschwing@pfeg.noaa.gov>, Frank Whitney <WhitneyF@pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca>, Gernot Friederich <frge@mbari.org>, gilberto gaxiola castro <ggaxiola@cicese.mx>, "H. Paul Freitag" <freitag@pmel.noaa.gov>, Howard Freeland <hjfrees@ios.bc.ca>, "James A. Yoder" <yoder@po.gso.uri.edu>, Jeff Paduan <paduan@oc.nps.navy.mil>, Jim McWilliams <jcm@atmos.ucla.edu>, John Kindle <kindle@nrlssc.navy.mil>, "Kenneth S. Johnson" <johnson@mbari.org>, Mike Kosro <kosro@oce.orst.edu>, Mike McPhaden <MCPHADEN@pmel.noaa.gov>, Osvaldo Ulloa <oulloa@profc.udec.cl>, Pete Strutton <stpe@mbari.org>, Raphael Kudela <kudela@cats.ucsc.edu>, Reiko Michisaki <reiko@mbari.org>, Richard Barber <rbarber@duke.edu>, "Richard C. Dugdale" <rdugdale@sfsu.edu>, Rob Dunbar <dunbar@stanford.edu>, Ron Lynn <Ron.Lynn@noaa.gov>, Steven Bograd <sbograd@upwell.pfeg.noaa.gov>, "Steven R. Ramp" <ramp@oc.nps.navy.mil>, Renato Guevara <rguevara@imarpe.gob.pe>, Luis Pizarro <lpizarro@imarpe.gob.pe>, "Miguel Niquen Carranza" <mniquen@imarpe.gob.pe>, Dimitri Gutierrez Aguilar <dgutierrez@imarpe.gob.pe>  
**Subject:** El Niño

Dear Aficionados,

On September 25 SST at Paita, Peru increased from 16.5 C to 21.5 C (see [http://www.mbari.org/bog/Projects/Peru/peru02\\_09.htm](http://www.mbari.org/bog/Projects/Peru/peru02_09.htm)) probably signaling the arrival of a Kelvin wave. The warming extended to at least 25 m but had not reached 60 m by the end of the month. The temperatures after the 25th remained high and are about 5 C warmer than the September mean. September warmings are unusual, in fact the 2002 temperatures are higher than September temperatures in 1982 and 1997. This warming is consistent with other recent analysis that seem to indicate that the El Niño that is currently underway may be stronger than previously thought. The signature off the northwest coast of North America may be felt at any time since there is typically a lag of 20–30 days. The ultimate strength of the event will depend on further anomalies in the western and central Pacific wind field. The next few months should be quite interesting.

Best regards,

Francisco

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