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HUENEME FISH



Manana Bait Co., Inc.

735 Industrial Ave.

October 21, 2002

Port Hueneme, CA 93041

805 488-4911

RECEIVED

Dr. Hans Radtke
Pacific Fisheries Management Council

OCT 22 2002

Dear Sirs:

PFMC

I am a holder of a Coastal Pelagics Limited Entry Permit from the National Marine Fisheries Services. It is one of approximately 68. I understand that there are boats in Washington and Oregon that are fishing sardines under a state issued permit. They are catching these fish without a federal permit and they are being counted against a quota that is issued to boats that are federally regulated. Why is that? These boats are stealing fish from our quota without permits. This cannot be legal.

The federal management should include the area all the way to the Canadian border. It seems to me that if the quota is 118,000 tons it should be caught by boats with a federal permit and counted as federally regulated in order to be valid.

I am unable to attend the meeting Oct. 30, 2002 in San Francisco to talk to you in person and would appreciate contact from the Council answering these questions.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

John Gingerich



STATE FISH COMPANY, INC.

Dr. Hans Radtke, Chair and
Members of the Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 200
Portland, OR 97220

PFMC FAX: (503) 820-2299

Subject: Long term Pacific Sardine management

Dear Dr. Radtke and Council Members:

The rapid increase in fishing effort on Pacific sardine stocks in Oregon and Washington threatens to repeat the devastation of sardine stocks in the absence of a revised, organized management plan based on research and discussion of the issues, by various user groups. The push for an immediate reallocation of sub quotas is premature, bypassing existing laws, science and common sense in a fatally flawed effort to placate local constituencies.

The historic California sardine fishery has come full circle, from heavy over fishing in the 50's, collapse, and eventual rehabilitation. The rehabilitation came as a direct result of a collaborative effort by the California Dept. of Fish and Game and the California sardine industry. A scientifically sound model was developed based on sampling in the South. The new fishery in the Pacific Northwest must be incorporated into this model in order to make management decisions based at least on some facts and not simply the request of a particular user group. The scientific community almost unanimously expresses the need for risk assessment of heavy fishing on this previously ignored stock.

The sardine biomass is declining and is expected to drop further in this cold water cycle, yet the National Marine Fisheries service, via the Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team, is encouraging fishing effort. There has been an increase in the number of "experimental" permits, and increasing investment in processing and freezing. And an emergency reallocation 1 week before its mandated date. This increasing capitalization puts pressure on investors to catch more fish.

The proposals offered are all variations on how to move quota to the North. Any proposal must incorporate the new northern fishery into the scientific model developed for the south. We have the science to do what we are doing. Where is the science to do what we want to do? National Marine Fisheries has done this with other fisheries and no valid reason exists for failing to do so in this instance.

The economic hardship created by the collapse of ground fishery in Oregon and Washington is not a reason to punish California wetfish producers. As quota decreases the southern fishery will loose its ability to catch mackerel and squid due to by catch of sardines - a phenomena experienced by the traditional California harvesters in the 80s and 90s.



STATE FISH COMPANY, INC.

The vast majority of California fishermen and processors believe the allocation must remain the same for this year.

In the event a reallocation is appropriate before a long-term plan is developed, then a flexible scheme to adjust sub quotas should be developed and administered by National Marine Fisheries Southwest region.

It is premature to suggest reallocation. There is a need to draft a list of issues and scenarios and discuss advantages and risks resulting in a revised plan that incorporate the new expanded fishery in the Northwest. Let's not repeat our mistakes on sardine management.

With Thanks.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'V DeLaica', written in a cursive style.

Vanessa DeLaica

Cc: Dr. Bill Hogarth, NMFS
Rod McInnis, NMFS SW Region
Dr. Kevin Hill, CDFG
Senator Dianne Feinstein
Cong. Duke Cunningham

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: CONSIDERATION OF LONG-TERM SARDINE ALLOCATION

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

.....

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

AGAIN, MANY THANKS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT THE VIEWS OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WETFISH PRODUCERS. AS WE AND OTHER MEMBERS HAVE INDICATED, WE FEEL THE PUSH FOR AN IMMEDIATE REALLOCATION OF SUB-QUOTA—OR SUSPENSION OF THE ALLOCATION SYSTEM, WHICH HAS THE SAME EFFECT--IS PREMATURE IN THE ABSENCE OF FIELD RESEARCH ON THE THE LARGE, MATURE NORTHERN SARDINE STOCKS.

THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST SARDINE FISHERY HAS DEVELOPED OUTSIDE THE GUIDANCE OF THE FEDERAL CPS FMP, WHICH MANDATED A LIMITED-ENTRY PROGRAM FOR CALIFORNIA. MOREOVER, VIRTUALLY NO RESEARCH HAS BEEN DONE TO DATE ON SARDINE STOCKS OUTSIDE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA. WE FEAR A CONTINUATION OF THE RAPID EXPANSION OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST FISHERY AT THIS TIME--CONSIDERING INDICATIONS THAT THE SARDINE POPULATION MAY HAVE BEGUN ITS NATURAL DECLINE--THREATENS THE FUTURE OF THE SARDINE RESOURCE AS WELL AS THE TRADITIONAL CALIFORNIA FISHERY.

PLEASE CONSIDER THE ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE OF SARDINES TO CALIFORNIA:

--SARDINES HAVE BEEN THE FOUNDATION OF CALIFORNIA'S FISHING INDUSTRY SINCE THE EARLY 1900S. IN THE HISTORIC FISHERY CALIFORNIA LANDED MORE THAN 97 PERCENT OF THE U.S. CATCH FROM 1916-1968.

--CALIFORNIA'S WETFISH INDUSTRY REPRESENTS 84 PERCENT OF TOTAL COMMERCIAL FISHERY LANDINGS TODAY.

--SARDINES ARE AN INTEGRAL COMPONENT OF CALIFORNIA'S WETFISH INDUSTRY; THE EX-PROCESSOR VALUE OF THIS INDUSTRY TO THE STATE IS ESTIMATED AT MORE THAN \$90 MILLION ANNUALLY.

--SARDINE LANDING TAXES CONTRIBUTE MILLIONS OF DOLLARS TO THE STATE—MORE THAN \$2 MILLION IN THE PAST THREE YEARS.

--CALIFORNIA HAS ALREADY PAID A HIGH PRICE FOR SARDINE RECOVERY, AND WE DON'T WANT TO GO THERE AGAIN.

--ON AVERAGE, ABOUT 80 PERCENT OF CALIFORNIA'S SARDINE HARVEST IS LANDED IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA.

ANOTHER IMPORTANT POINT:
PACIFIC SARDINES FILL INTERNATIONAL MARKETS – AND THESE MARKETS WERE DEVELOPED LARGELY BY CALIFORNIA'S WETFISH INDUSTRY: LARGER FISH TYPICALLY GO TO JAPAN FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION AND HAND-PACKED LONG-LINE BAIT; LARGE AND SMALLER FISH ARE CANNED, BOTH FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION AND PET FOOD; SOME SARDINES ARE FROZEN IQF; SOME ARE PROCESSED H&G AND EXPORTED FOR CANNING OVERSEAS; SOME ARE BLOCK-FROZEN FOR EXPORT-- FOR CANNING OVERSEAS FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION, AND ALSO FOR BAIT, FISH AND ANIMAL FEED.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PRODUCERS FILL VIRTUALLY ALL THESE MARKETS – THEY DON'T JUST PACK FROZEN BLOCKS FOR TUNA BAIT. FURTHER, MONTHLY LANDINGS RECORDS ILLUSTRATE THAT SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA'S SARDINE FISHERY IS ACTIVE DURING LATE SUMMER-FALL, WINTER AND SPRING SEASONS -- MOST MONTHS OF THE YEAR--NOT JUST THE FIRST THREE MONTHS. THE RECENTLY DEVELOPED FISHERY IN OREGON AND WASHINGTON NOW COMPETES WITH CALIFORNIA'S TRADITIONAL SARDINE FISHERY IN MOST, IF NOT ALL, OF THESE MARKETS.

THE COUNCIL HAS HEARD ARGUMENTS THAT REALLOCATION IS NECESSARY TO ACHIEVE OPTIMUM YIELD, SINCE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA IS "LEAVING A LOT OF FISH ON THE TABLE."

I'D LIKE TO POINT OUT THAT SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA DID UTILIZE ITS FULL ALLOCATION IN 1998, PLUS SOME OF MONTEREY'S UNUSED QUOTA. THAT YEAR THE QUOTA WAS 47,987 SHORT TONS. IN 1999, THE YEAR THE SARDINE RESOURCE WAS DECLARED RECOVERED, SCIENTISTS FIRST ATTEMPTED TO EXTRAPOLATE A COAST-WIDE BIOMASS FROM SOUTHERN CA RESEARCH DATA. THE QUOTA JUMPED TO 132,762 SHORT TONS. THIS AND SUBSEQUENT YEAR EXTRAPOLATED HARVEST GUIDELINES ARE THE NUMBERS THAT THE MANAGEMENT TEAM EXPRESSES A "GREAT DEAL OF UNCERTAINTY" ABOUT.

I ASKED PROCESSORS WHY THEY WEREN'T USING MORE OF THEIR ALLOCATION NOW AND THEY NOTED AN INCREASE IN SMALLER FISH IN THE PAST FEW YEARS; WHEN SMALLER FISH SHOWED UP, THEY TOLD THE BOATS NOT TO GO OUT FOR SARDINES. CATCH AT AGE GRAPHS FROM DOCKSIDE SAMPLES TEND TO ILLUSTRATE THIS TREND SINCE THE 1998 EL NIÑO.

SARDINE'S ARE A CYCLIC, PELAGIC RESOURCE . THEY MOVE NORTH, AND ACCORDING TO HISTORICAL ACCOUNTS, THEY ALSO RETURN SOUTH. SARDINE ABUNDANCE IS RELATED TO WARM-WATER CYCLES. IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT THE 1998 EL NIÑO PUSHED THE POPULATIONS OF BOTH SARDINES AND MACKEREL INTO NORTHERN WATERS. I KNOW WE'RE NOW CRYING FOR MACKEREL IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, BUT CATCHES ARE SPORADIC. YET OBSERVERS NOTE INCIDENTAL CATCHES UP TO 50 PERCENT MACKEREL IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST SARDINE HARVEST.

WE KNOW THAT THE NEW NORTHERN SARDINE FISHERY TARGETS PRIMARILY MATURE, OLDER, LARGER FISH; SMALLER FISH TEND TO BE MORE PREVALENT IN THE SOUTHERN FISHERY, ALTHOUGH THE CALIFORNIA FISHERY ALSO HARVESTS SOME LARGER FISH AT TIMES. HIGH CATCHES IN THE NORTH CONSTRAIN PER CAPITA SPAWNING STOCK (THESE FISH CAN SPAWN 40 TIMES A YEAR); HIGH CATCHES IN THE SOUTH CONSTRAIN SURVIVAL OF YOUNG FISH (CAPABLE OF SPAWNING 6 TIMES A YEAR) AND FUTURE SPAWNERS. WE DON'T WANT TO OVER-FISH AT EITHER END OF THE SPECTRUM.

THE SOUTHERN FISHERY HAS EXERCISED RESTRAINT IN CATCHING THE SMALLER, YOUNGER FISH THAT HAVE APPEARED IN RECENT YEARS. WE URGE THE NEW SARDINE INDUSTRY IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST TO EXERCISE SIMILAR RESTRAINT UNTIL FIELD RESEARCH DETERMINES THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THOSE LARGE, FECUND NORTHERN SARDINES AND THE SPAWNING BIOMASS AS A WHOLE:

- ARE THESE FISH OF THE SAME STOCK AS THE CALIFORNIA POPULATION OR A SEPARATE SUB-STOCK?
- DO THESE FISH OVER-WINTER IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST?
- WHAT IS THE IMPACT OF INCREASING HARVEST OF THE MATURE NORTHERN FISH AT THIS TIME? THE MANAGEMENT TEAM ACKNOWLEDGES IT DOES NOT KNOW!

THESE ARE CRITICALLY IMPORTANT PIECES OF THE MANAGEMENT PUZZLE. UNTIL BASELINE RESEARCH PROVIDES SOME ANSWERS, WE URGE THE COUNCIL TO CONSIDER THIS LACK OF KNOWLEDGE AS A PROXY FOR PRECAUTION.

IN YOUR DELIBERATIONS OVER LONG-TERM ALLOCATION, PLEASE ALSO CONSIDER THE INDICATORS PROVIDED IN THE LATEST STOCK ASSESSMENT:

- POPULATION GROWTH APPEARS TO HAVE LEVELED OFF;
- HARVEST GUIDELINE HAS DECLINED FOR THE PAST THREE YEARS RUNNING;
- WATER TEMPERATURE IS CLOSE TO THE TRIGGER THAT DROPS HARVEST RATE FROM 15% TO 5%.

PLEASE DO NOT ENCOURAGE FURTHER EXPANSION OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST FISHERY— ENCOURAGE OVERCAPITALIZATION -- WITHOUT FIRST DOING BASELINE RESEARCH ON THOSE STOCKS.

REGARDING LONG-TERM ALLOCATION OPTIONS PROVIDED AND PRIORITIZED BY THE CPSAS, AS WE COMMENTED EARLIER, WE FEEL SERIOUS DISCUSSION OF LONG-TERM ALLOCATION IS PREMATURE UNTIL RESEARCH PROVIDES SOME ANSWERS. ADDRESSING THE LAUNDRY LIST OF OPTIONS PROVIDED BY THE CPSAS, WE SUGGEST THE FOLLOWING OPTIONS BE SENT FORWARD FOR FURTHER ANALYSIS:

- A. STATUS QUO – WE SUPPORT THE STATUS QUO FOR THE SARDINE FISHERY IN THE SHORT TERM; HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE THERE MAY BE BETTER WAYS TO MANAGE THE SARDINE RESOURCE – AFTER SCIENTISTS HAVE GAINED BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE NORTHERN SARDINE STOCK AND ITS RELATIONSHIP TO THE SOUTHERN SPAWNING BIOMASS. IT'S HARD TO PREDICT NOW WHAT THAT RESEARCH WILL TELL US.
- B. MODIFY FMP LANGUAGE TO PROVIDE FLEXIBILITY FOR THE NMFS-SWR ADMINISTRATOR TO MODIFY SUB-AREA QUOTAS IN-SEASON (#7). WE UNDERSTAND THAT THIS OPTION MIGHT REQUIRE SPECIFIC CRITERIA, E.G. ECONOMIC HARDSHIP, WHICH COULD BE DISCUSSED AT THE NEXT MEETING OF THE CPS ADVISORY SUBPANEL. WE SUGGEST THAT #6 – AN “OFF THE TOP” SET-ASIDE -- IS SIMILAR IN INTENT TO THE LANGUAGE IN #7.
- C. CHANGE REALLOCATION DATE TO SEPTEMBER 1 (#2) – AS WE NOTED EARLIER, WE WOULD SUPPORT THIS CHANGE IN THE SHORT-TERM, IF ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE IS ADDED TO OPEN ANY UNUSED REALLOCATION TO HARVEST BY ALL AREAS ON DECEMBER 1, FOLLOWING THE MANAGEMENT DECISION MADE BY THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME IN 1998. WE OPPOSE CHANGING THE REALLOCATION DATE TO AUGUST 1, HOWEVER, AS THIS WOULD ENCOURAGE FURTHER EXPANSION IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST IN THE ABSENCE OF RESEARCH.
- D. IMPLEMENT THREE SUB-QUOTAS (#5) CONTRARY TO ARGUMENTS ADVANCED BY PACIFIC NORTHWEST INTERESTS, WE BELIEVE ALLOCATION CONTINUES TO BE APPROPRIATE AND THE ONLY WAY TO GUARANTEE ACCESS TO FISH FOR EACH HARVEST REGION DURING ITS PREFERRED FISHING WINDOW. THE 2002 SEASON IS CASE IN POINT, AS MONTEREY'S FALL SEASON WAS CURTAILED FOR A SHORT TIME. WITH A SEPARATE ALLOCATION, FISHING COULD HAVE CONTINUED IN MONTEREY. AS THE HARVEST GUIDELINE SHRINKS IN FUTURE YEARS, INDIVIDUAL AREA ALLOCATIONS WILL BECOME INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT TO ENSURE EQUITABLE ACCESS TO FISH FOR EACH REGION. IT SEEMS LOGICAL TO ESTABLISH LONG-TERM MANAGEMENT MEASURES THAT CONSIDER THE LIMITED-ENTRY FISHERY IN CALIFORNIA SEPARATELY FROM THE OPEN ACCESS FISHERY IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST—PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF SARDINES' HISTORICAL PATTERN, THE NORTHERN FISHERY WILL DISAPPEAR FIRST.

WE SUGGEST THAT OPTION #5 COULD BE COMBINED WITH #3, REVISE SUB-AREA DEFINITIONS, BY ESTABLISHING AN ALLOCATION LINE AT PT. ARENA. #4, CHANGE ALLOCATION PERCENTAGES, ALSO COULD BE ROLLED INTO THE ANALYSIS OF #5 AND #3, SUCH THAT THE “LIMITED ENTRY” FISHERY ALLOCATION WOULD BE ADJUSTED TO INCLUDE MONTEREY.

WE RECOGNIZE THAT THIS IS PROBABLY THE MOST DIFFICULT SUITE OF OPTIONS TO ANALYZE, BUT AS ONE MANAGEMENT TEAM MEMBER NOTED, THE EASIEST OPTION IS LIKELY NOT TO BE THE BEST OPTION FOR THE SARDINE FISHERY.

WE ENCOURAGE THE COUNCIL TO ASK THE MANAGEMENT TEAM TO ANALYZE THE SUITE OF OPTIONS ENCOMPASSED BY #3—MOVE THE LINE NORTH, #5—IMPLEMENT THREE SUB-QUOTAS AND #4—ADJUST ALLOCATION PERCENTAGES TO REFLECT THE INCLUSION OF MONTEREY IN THE LIMITED-ENTRY CALIFORNIA FISHERY.

IMPLEMENTING A LINE AT PT. ARENA WOULD PROVIDE A SEPARATE ALLOCATION FOR THE “OPEN-ACCESS” FISHERY IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST AND LIMITED ENTRY FISHERY IN CA. SECTION 5.2 PROVIDES THAT “NOTHING IN THIS FMP PRECLUDES ADDITIONAL ALLOCATIONS BASED ON OTHER GEOGRAPHIC AREAS ...”

PLEASE NOTE THAT ALTHOUGH WE SUGGEST ESTABLISHING AN ALLOCATION LINE AT POINT ARENA AS PART OF A PACKAGE OF LONG-TERM OPTIONS, WE CANNOT SUPPORT OPTION #3B--SIMPLY MOVING THE LINE TO POINT ARENA AND RETAINING THE EXISTING 1/3 VS. 2/3 ALLOCATION--UNTIL FIELD RESEARCH ILLUMINATES THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE NORTHERN STOCK TO THE SPAWNING BIOMASS AS A WHOLE.

E. ELIMINATION OF ALLOCATION (COAST-WIDE QUOTA) (#8)

WE STRONGLY OPPOSE THIS OPTION FOR THE REASONS STATED EARLIER:

A COAST-WIDE QUOTA WILL RESULT IN A DERBY FISHERY, WILL ENCOURAGE FURTHER EXPANSION AND OVERCAPITALIZATION OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST FISHERY, AND WILL NOT GUARANTEE ACCESS TO FISH IN ANY AREA, INCLUDING MONTEREY. IN FACT, AS QUOTAS DECLINE TO LOWER LEVELS, THIS OPTION WOULD NOT ASSURE A FISHERY IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST, ASSUMING FISH WERE STILL IN THE AREA.

MOREOVER, INCREASING THE HARVEST OF LARGE SPAWNERS AT THIS TIME COULD PRECIPITATE OR HASTEN THE DECLINE OF THE SARDINE RESOURCE.

WE RE-EMPHASIZE OUR SUPPORT FOR THE MINORITY REPORT IN THE CPSAS STATEMENT TO THE COUNCIL, URGING THE COUNCIL TO EXERCISE PRECAUTION AT THIS TIME.

IN CLOSING WE AGAIN POINT OUT, THE FIRST NATIONAL STANDARD OF THE MAGNUSON ACT STATES:

"CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES SHALL PREVENT OVER-FISHING.... " BIOLOGY COMES BEFORE ECONOMICS. HOW CAN YOU PREVENT OVER-FISHING BY ENCOURAGING EXPANSION OF A NEW FISHERY TARGETING MATURE SPAWNING STOCKS, WITHOUT BASELINE RESEARCH- CONSIDERING THE PROBABILITY THAT THE SARDINE POPULATION HAS ALREADY ENTERED A NATURAL DECLINE?

PLEASE SUPPORT THE NEED FOR EXPANDED RESEARCH NOW AND, IN THE MEANTIME, EXERCISE PRECAUTION. ONCE AGAIN, THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT.

SINCERELY,



DIANE PLESCHNER-STEELE FOR
CALIFORNIA WETFISH PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION