

Fishermen's Union of America

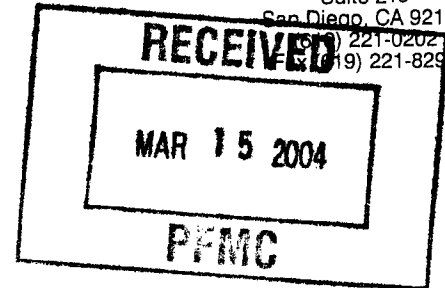
Pacific and Caribbean Area

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March 7, 2004

Chairman Donald K. Hansen
Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 200
Portland, Oregon 97220-1384

Dear Chairman Hansen:

I am in receipt of the March Council Meeting material, which also includes the Informational Report on Coastal Pegalic Species and the 2004 CPS Schedule.

The report clearly shows that the Council "may" formally initiate an amendment to the CPS fishery management plan for a more comprehensive revision of the Pacific sardine allocation framework. In speaking with other interested "fishery" people and also some of the individuals involved in the FMP process, it is our belief that any introductions to the FMP at this time is much too premature and unwarranted.

Certainly, with the provisions currently in place as an interim measure and in light of the fact that new data on sardine stocks generated from expanded research cruises is not yet available but likely will be by fall, postponing initiation of an FMP amendment process to coincide with discussion of biomass estimates will give the Council, the CPS Management Team and the Advisory Panel plenty of time to meet and discuss this issue. The public will also have tremendous time to voice their opinions and the Council to complete this process well before 2006.

Your reconsideration of the potential timetable set at this time would be most appreciative. With every good wish for a successful 2004.

Very truly yours,

Terry R Hoinsky
President & Member CPSAS

Cc: Executive Director Donald O. McIsaac:
Members of the CPSAS
Dan Waldeck, Staff Officer