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To: Dr. Don McIssac  
Executive Director  
Pacific Fishery Management Council  
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 200  
Portland, OR 97220-1384

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PFMC

Re: Agenda Item B.3.c Council Operating Procedures

Dr. McIssac and Council Members,

I wish to express my support for the Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Sub panel's majority recommendation to add an additional CPSAS representative from the Pacific Northwest (November 2004 Agenda Item B.2.b. CPSAS Report). I feel that the current make up of the CPSAS needs to be adjusted to reflect the increased fishery in the Northwest. The panel currently has 3 commercial fishing members from California and only 2 from the Northwest. Because the Northwest fishery has grown considerably over the last few years I feel that increased Northwest representation on the CPSAS is warranted. Over time, if the Northwest fishery is declining in landings and value, the representation on the panel could then be adjusted appropriately.

I further agree with the Panel's majority recommendation that the Council should encourage active members (participating fishermen) to participate on the CPSAS during the next nomination cycle. Currently the panel make up is a majority of individuals representing fishing or processor organizations or individuals who have no "hands on" experience in today's CPS fisheries. It would be better to see CPSAS members with direct ties to what is happening in the fishery instead of members who are offering opinions based on second hand information from their association members, friends, dock talk, etc...

In closing, I hope the Council will support the CPSAS majority and add a representative from the Pacific Northwest fishery to the panel. I feel that this change would provide a more equitable input of interests and would give the Council more balanced recommendations to base its decisions on.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this issue.  
Regards,

Ryan Kapp