

Agenda Item C.3.c
Supplemental Public Comment
June 2008

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West Coast Seafood Processors Association
1618 SW 1st Avenue, Suite 318
Portland, OR 97201

PFMC

June 2, 2008

Mr. Don Hansen, Chair
Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Ste. 101
Portland, OR 97220

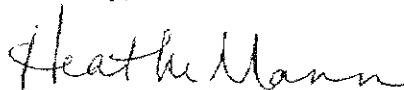
Dear Don:

The West Coast Seafood Processors Association (WCSPA) would like to go on record in support of the Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel statement identifying development of alternative indices for assessing Pacific sardine populations as the highest priority research need for coastal pelagic species.

As Council members are aware, processors and fishermen in Oregon and Washington have been working on a collaborative project with NMFS and the states to explore use of aerial observation combined with acoustic surveys as an alternative method to measure sardine biomass off those states. To date, this project has been funded entirely by the industry. Identification of this sort of methodology as a research priority could open the way for additional support should cooperative research funding become available in the coming fiscal year.

We appreciate the Council's consideration of and support for innovative concepts to increase our knowledge of fish populations.

Sincerely,



Heather Munro Mann
Deputy Director