



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
West Coast Region  
7600 Sand Point Way N.E., Bldg. 1  
Seattle, Washington 98115

150413WCR2015SF00253:JL

**October 6, 2015**

Ms. Dorothy Lowman, Chair  
Pacific Fishery Management Council  
7700 NE Ambassador Place  
Portland, Oregon 97220

Dear Chair Lowman:

As you are aware, the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council), in collaboration with NMFS, held a workshop August 17-19, 2015, at the Southwest Fisheries Science Center in La Jolla, to examine and discuss the DISTRIBUTION parameter used in the Pacific sardine harvest control rules. The results of that workshop have been compiled into a report which is now complete and has been posted on the Council's website. I am writing to request that this report be reviewed by the Council at its November 2015 meeting and, after receiving advice from your advisory bodies and hearing public comment, that the Council determine whether further action regarding this subject may be warranted.

Should the Council determine that further action regarding the DISTRIBUTION parameter or other method for taking into account the presence of Pacific sardine coast-wide is warranted, NMFS requests that the Council make a recommendation to NMFS at one or more of the Council meetings scheduled for March 2016, April 2016, and/or June 2016.

Finally, I would like to thank Dr. McIsaac and his staff, along with Dr. André Punt, for organizing and running a very successful workshop. I am also grateful to the many contributors to the workshop who, over a short period of time, compiled the best available scientific information on the distribution of Pacific sardines along the coast of North America, ensuring this workshop was a worthwhile endeavor.

If you have any questions, please contact Joshua Lindsay ([Joshua.lindsay@noaa.gov](mailto:Joshua.lindsay@noaa.gov) or 562-980-4034).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert Turner".

Robert Turner  
Assistant Regional Administrator  
Sustainable Fisheries Division

cc: Dr. Donald McIsaac, Executive Director, PFMC  
Chuck Tracy, Deputy Director, PFMC

