



West Coast Seafood Processors Association
650 NE Holladay Street, Suite 1600
Portland, OR 97232
(503) 227-5076

November 3, 2017

Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101
Portland, OR 97220

RE: Supporting West Coast Pelagic Conservation Group CPS EFP

Dear Chairman Anderson and Council Members:

The West Coast Seafood Processors Association (WCSPA) appreciates the opportunity to support research in the Coastal Pelagics Species (CPS) fishery. I am writing on behalf of WCSPA in support of the West Coast Pelagic Conservation Group's exempted fishing permit (EFP) application.

WCSPA represents shore-based seafood processors in California, Oregon and Washington. Our members process most of the fish and shellfish delivered to shoreside plants and provide healthy, sustainable seafood to consumers throughout the United States. Several of our members process sardines and other pelagic species.

As proven by the 2017 collaborative effort between the Southwest Fisheries Science Center and industry to sample nearshore areas, an EFP to continue this kind of sampling would benefit both industry and managers. Federal assets are unable to sample nearshore areas; industry vessels, outfitted with the appropriate equipment, can. Together, a more accurate picture of the distribution of pelagic species can be made available for stock assessments and CPS management into the future.

The seine vessel F/V Lisa Marie was used in the collaborative effort this year. We understand it would also participate in this EFP. The WCSPA fully supports using the F/V Lisa Marie, as its owner and captain already are familiar with and understand the survey parameters.

It is important to note that our members will not be involved in this survey except for possible offloading of samples and shipment as directed by survey teams. No fish will be harvested in a commercial capacity, but it is important this EFP move forward since the primary sardine season is

currently closed. The WCSPA believes this EFP is worth pursuing for better long-term management of CPS fisheries.

Please contact me if you have any questions or would like to discuss this issue further. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lori L. Steele". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

Lori Steele
Executive Director