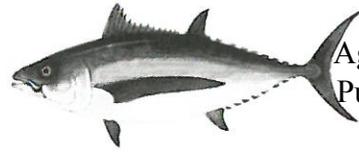


**WESTERN FISHBOAT
OWNERS ASSOCIATION**



Agenda Item C.6.b
Public Comment 1
March 2018

P.O. Box 992723
Redding, CA 96099

Ph. (530) 229-1097
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FEB 01 2018

wfoa@charter.net
wfoa-tuna.org
PacificAlbacore.com

January 26, 2018

PFMC

Pacific Fisheries Management Council
Mr. Phil Anderson - Chairman
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101
Portland, OR 97220-1384

Re: HMSAS Northern Processors Seat Support Letter

Dear Chairman Anderson:

Western Fishboat Owners Association which has been involved in the HMSAS process both federally and internationally for albacore tuna since 1995 would like to endorse two applicants for the northern processor seat on the PFMC. The position is vacant due the unfortunate death of Pierre Marchand who held the seat since the beginning of forming the FMP for HMSAS.

The two nominees, Jonanathan Gonzales who has a very extensive background in the process and represents Pacific Seafoods at PFMC meeting and other venues, and Donald Alber of Ilwaco Seafoods in Ilwaco, WA is the other person who we believe would do an outstanding job on the HMSAS. Both have represented others as alternates recently and have demonstrated a knowledge of the issue affecting not only albacore but the other HMS fisheries on the west coast.

WFOA understands both have been nominated so consider this a letter of support. WFOA gives each nominee equal weight in the process and will defer to the PFMC to make a final decision.

If you have any question feel free to contact me at anytime.

Sincerely,

Wayne Heikkila
Executive Director - WFOA/AFRF

cc: Mr. Chuck Tracy - Executive Director

CALIFORNIA



**FISHERIES
& SEAFOOD
INSTITUTE**

CFSI Officers

President

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Pier 45 Seafood, San Francisco

1st VP - Membership

Vacant

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Joyce Company, Inc.,
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Pacific Seafood, Sacramento

Chairman of the Board

Dave Rudie

Catalina Offshore Products, San
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CFSI Directors

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Jim Caito

Caito Fisheries, Fort Bragg

Joe Cincotta

Pacific Seafood, San Francisco

David DiCarlo

DiCarlo Seafood, Wilmington

Don Disraeli

Kanaloa Seafood, Santa Barbara

Chris Harming

Seabreeze Seafoods International,
Diamond Bar

Tom Tobin

T.M. Tobin Company, Foster City

Ad Hoc Board Member

Pamela Tom

Ret., Food Science & Technology
Department, UC Davis

Executive Director

Robert E. Ross

1015 "K" Street, Suite 200
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 447-4068

January 29, 2018

Mr. Chuck Tracy,
Executive Director, Pacific Fisheries Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101
Portland, Oregon 97220

Re: Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS) -Processor
North of Cape Mendocino- Support for Jonathan Gonzalez

Dear Mr. Tracy:

Please be advised that the members of the California Fisheries and Seafood Institute (CFSI) support the appointment of Jonathan Gonzalez to HMSAS. Ours is a trade association made up of processors, exporters, and wholesale distributors of fish and seafood to virtually every grocer and restaurant in California thereby providing access to west coast seafood to the state's 40 million consumers.

We would like to associate our support comments with those made by Dave Rudie, Chair of the HMSAS, and emphasize Jonathon's unique qualifications. If there was an individual that could possibly succeed a man as dedicated as Pierre Marchand, it is Jonathan.

We respectfully request your favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

Rob Ross, Executive Director
California Fisheries and Seafood Institute.



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

January 30, 2018

Phil Anderson, Chairman
Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101
Portland, Oregon 97220-1384

Re: Agenda Item C.6, Memberships and Appointments (HMSAS)

Dear Chairman Anderson:

On behalf of the West Coast Seafood Processors Association (WCSPA), I am writing to support the appointment of Jonathan Gonzalez to the processor seat (north of Cape Mendocino S) on the Pacific Council's Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS). WCSPA represents shore-based seafood processors and associated businesses in Washington, Oregon, and California. Jonathan currently works for Pacific Seafood, one of WCSPA's primary members and founding companies. WCSPA members understand the importance of remaining actively engaged in the Council process and appreciate the opportunity for Jonathan to represent our interests on the HMSAS.

Jonathan is very familiar with the Council process and has been attending and participating in PFMC meetings since 2014. During this time, Jonathan has served as an alternate on the HMSAS three times. He has in-depth knowledge of HMS issues addressed by the Council. On the water, Jonathan has been a deck hand on trawl vessels targeting ridgeback shrimp and sea cucumbers. He also served voluntarily as the Assistant Director of the Santa Barbara Marine Mammal Center from 2007-2012 and as a co-founder of Community Seafood, Santa Barbara's first Community Supported Fishery. Jonathan is the currently President of the Ventura County Commercial Fishermen's Association, which has been awarded three fisheries improvement grants to support HMS fisheries.

Jonathan's knowledge of the Council process and HMS fisheries issues, previous experience working with the HMSAS, and current employment with a major processing company involved in HMS fisheries make him an ideal candidate for the HMSAS. He has a unique and important perspective, he's dedicated to the industry, and he's committed to the Council process. For these reasons, Jonathan would make an excellent addition to the HMSAS.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lori L. Steele". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lori Steele
Executive Director



www.AmericanAlbacore.com
4364 Bonita Rd Box 311
Bonita, CA. 91902
P (619) 941 2307 F (619) 863 5046



www.AmericanTuna.com
4364 Bonita Rd. #331
Bonita, CA 91902
P (866) 817-0497

Mr. Mike Burner
Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101
Portland, Oregon 97220-1384

January 30, 2018

Re: Letter of support for Carl Nish's appointment to the Highly Migratory Species
Advisory Subpanel - Processor North of Cape Mendocino seat

Via email

Dear Mr. Burner,

On behalf of The American Albacore Fishing Association and American Tuna, I am pleased to support and endorse the appointment of Carl Nish to the Processor North of Cape Mendocino seat on the Pacific Fishery Management Council's Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS). The American Albacore Fishing Association ("AAFA"), represents commercial albacore pole and line and troll fishermen who collectively harvest almost half of the total U.S. albacore catch. American Tuna is one of the largest purchasers and processors of U.S. harvested Pole & Line/Troll Albacore in the U.S. American Tuna purchases and processes only from pole & line albacore fishermen. American Tuna has promoted and added significant market share to the U.S. market for a raw material sourced from U.S. Pole and Line/Troll Albacore Fishermen.

Mr. Nish is a retired commercial fisherman with over sixty years of HMS fishing experience. In 2005, Mr. Nish was a founding member of both American Albacore Fishing Association and American Tuna. Mr. Nish currently sits on the Board of Directors for both American Tuna and the American Albacore Fishing Association.

The advertisement for the vacancy highlights the duties associated with the Seat as follows: a) the capacity and the extent to which the U.S. commercial and recreational fisheries will harvest the stocks managed under the FMP, b) the effect of such management measures on local economies and social structures, c) potential conflicts

among groups using a specific fishery resource, or d) enforcement problems peculiar to each fishery with emphasis on the expected need for enforcement resources.

We firmly believe that Mr. Nish's experience and knowledge of both processing and harvesting of Highly Migratory Species makes him ideally suited to provide advice and counsel on the aforementioned subjects.

Lastly, appointing Mr. Nish to the vacancy on the HMSAS will benefit us; our members; commercial/charter boat/recreational fishermen along the west coast; and the supporting businesses and communities reliant upon sustainable and active fisheries.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Natalie Webster, Director of Operations



Mr. Philip Anderson
Pacific Fisheries Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place Suite 101
Portland, OR 97220-1384

February 4, 2018

**Re: Agenda Item C.6 Memberships and Appointments
Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS)**

Dear Chairman Anderson:

Pacific Seafood hired Jonathan Gonzalez as a Fishery Policy Analyst almost a year ago. I was directly involved with his interviews and evaluation. There were several key reasons I recommended he be hired for the position. First was his passion for the fishing community and the people who make their living from the sea. Second was the close relationships he had forged amongst many fishermen I knew personally in the CPS and HMS fisheries. Third was that he is intimately familiar with HMS issues and policy. Although Pacific Seafood purchases a large amount of albacore in the NW and some warm water species in California we do not have someone that is involved in the world of HMS. This is an important component of our business that we would like to expand. Pacific believes that any successful business plan must take into account the needs of our fishermen as well as the needs of our customers. This includes coverage of the fishery management programs and processes that govern our access to resources and the long term health of those resources.

Jonathan brought to Pacific Seafood a “plug & play” package for HMS. In addition his energy and enthusiasm for the industry and the work appear to know few limitations. He has established personal history working on a number of important HMS fishery issues over the last four years. He did all of this on his own time and was sometimes paid through donations from fishermen he worked with. Not only did he attend almost every Council meeting in the last several years but he has hit the legislative halls in the states of California, Oregon, and Washington and more recently in our nation’s capital. He has a penchant for learning and analyzing the issues and has also taken on a host of other fishery issues. His real forte however remains HMS.

Jonathan has served on the HMSAS multiple times over the years as a substitute for fishermen who were at sea or others that could not attend. He has always balanced his advocacy for industry with the conservation of our stocks and the preservation of our habitat and environment. He understands that the sustainability of our marine resources is the security of our future. For these reasons Pacific Seafood believes he is the best possible candidate for the open HPSAS position.

Thank you for your consideration,



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Okoniewski".

Mike Okoniewski
Fisheries Policy & Management Advisor
Pacific Seafood Group
t: 360-619-2019
mokoniewski@pacseafood.com

c.c. Mr. Chuck Tracy, Executive Director, PFMC
Dan Occhipinti, General Counsel, Pacific Seafood



Commercial Fishermen of Santa Barbara

A 501(c)3 non-profit organization

6 Harbor Way #155 Santa Barbara, CA 93109 www.cfsb.info

February 5, 2018

Phil Anderson, Chairman
Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101
Portland, Oregon 97220-1384

Re: Agenda Item C.6, Memberships and Appointments (HMSAS)

Dear Chairman Anderson:

I am writing on behalf of Commercial Fishermen of Santa Barbara, a 501 (c)3 non-profit that serves the Santa Barbara fishing community, to support the appointment of Jonathan Gonzalez to the processor seat (north of Cape Mendocino S) on the Pacific Fisheries Council's Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel (HMSAS). CFSB has 40 active fishermen members. CFSB has been representing our port for over 40 years to promote a sustainable future for California's fishing heritage and to contribute to a thriving port for the City of Santa Barbara.

Jonathan was born and raised in Santa Barbara, and from an early age began actively volunteering to assist in the stewardship of our coastal resources, including rising in the ranks to help run the Marine Mammal Rescue Center, co-founding Community Seafood, a community supported fishery program, and becoming the president of Ventura County Commercial Fishermen's Association. Through his diverse activities, Jonathan quickly became widely known and well-regarded in the greater Santa Barbara community and the west coast fisheries world.

Jonathan is bright, well-read and energetic. His is a skilled debater, and reliable and respectful in his dealings. Jonathan always goes above and beyond in his commitments. He has a great understanding of HMS fisheries and has seen many issues from multiple sides, as a conservationist, a fisheries advocate, a deckhand, educator, and now a representative of a major processor. He has a lot to contribute to the progress of West Coast fisheries, and serving on the HMSAS is an ideal way to harness that contribution.

Thank you,

Kim Selkoe, Ph.D.
Executive Director of CFSB

Chris Voss, F/V Bella "B" –
President of CFSB

John Colgate, F/V Maalaea –
Vice President of CFSB



Michael Harrington, F/V
Unomas – Treasurer of CFSB



Mike McCorkle F/V Pieface and
Theresa Anne – Board member
of CFSB



Jeff Maassen, F/V Eden Roc,
Member of CFSB & past
president

From: **Nathan Perez** <nathanjperez@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, Jan 31, 2018 at 7:28 PM
Subject: Agenda item c.6 March 2018 pfmc
To: pfmc.comments@noaa.gov

Dear Chair Anderson and Council Members,
My name is Nathan Perez and I'm from San Diego, CA. I own a drift gillnet permit and I've been commercial fishing swordfish for 16 years. I want to voice my support for Jonathan Gonzalez to fill the northern processor seat on the HMSAS. Jonathan has been a great advocate for our fisheries and the environment and I think he would make a great addition to the HMSAS.

Thank you,

Nathan Perez

From: **Greg Surgener** <gregsurgener@gmail.com>
Date: Sat, Feb 3, 2018 at 7:20 PM
Subject: Agenda Item C.6
To: pfmc.comments@noaa.gov

Dear Chairman Anderson and Council members:

On behalf of Surgener Fisheries, owners of the commercial F/V Tommy John and F/V McKenzie Rose, we would like you and the other Council members to please consider Jonathan Gonzalez for the open seat on the PFMC's Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel. We know Jonathan through the swordfish fisherie. We have been commercial fisherman for 9 years and fish swordfish drift gill net, harpoon swordfish and fish albacore tuna pole and line.

Jonathan has been helpful and supportive of the drift gill net swordfish fisherie for many years at his own expense and has proven to be very knowledgeable of our fisherie. He believes in conservation and the preservation of marine wildlife and of the fishermen. We believe he would be a great addition to the PFMC.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Greg Surgener and Josh Dagama
Surgener Fisheries LLC

From: **Donald Krebs** <dkgoldcoast@live.com>
Date: Thu, Feb 8, 2018 at 1:29 PM
Subject: Jonathan Gonzalez HMSAS
To: "pfmc.comments@noaa.gov" <pfmc.comments@noaa.gov>

To Phil Anderson and council members. I am Donald Krebs commercial fisherman since 1978 I mainly Fish for swordfish over the years and have not missed a swordfish season yet. I use harpoon,gillnet and DSBG to catch swordfish.I met Jonathan when we defeated AB2019 that was designed to put commercial sword fisherman out of business. Jonathan donated many hours to help fishermen win this politically driven Bill.Jon is very knowledgeable on many fisheries especially HMS ones he is a friend of the fisherman and does not want to see freshman lose their jobs. He bases his decisions on science and facts from NMFS. And the best thing about him is he listens to the fisherman and their concerns. Jonathan Gonzalez would make a very very good HMSAS member. Thank you Donald Krebs