



CALIFORNIA WETFISH PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION

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Mr. Phil Anderson, Chair, and
Members of the Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place #100
Portland OR 97220-1384

September 26, 2018

RE: Agenda Item E.5 NOTICE OF INTENT TO RE-APPLY FOR EXEMPTED FISHERY PERMIT (EFP)
TO ALLOW TAKE OF PACIFIC SARDINE IN 2019 NEARSHORE RESEARCH PROGRAM

Dear Mr. Anderson and Council members,

On behalf of CWPA and California's wetfish industry, I am submitting this letter to request a renewal of our Exempted Fishery Permit (EFP) that the Council and NOAA Fisheries approved in 2018. The justification remains as stated last year: *"The goal of the Coastal Pelagic Species Near-shore Cooperative Survey (CPS-NCS) research [in 2019] is to continue a pilot study to develop sampling methodology for estimating CPS biomass in shallow waters that are not accessible to NOAA ships.*

Survey protocols call for aerial estimates of school biomass over established transects, with point set capture of CPS schools of various sizes to validate aerial estimates. In 2018, our collaborative aerial survey conducted under this EFP succeeded in completing one complete replicate (three transects flown three times in one day) of all three coastal strata and a second replicate of the southern and central strata. Fishermen also succeeded in capturing 16 valid point sets of the targeted 23: 12 sets in the 1-10 mt range, and 4 in the 11-20 mt range, landing a total of 103.3 mt sardine, 5.6 mt mackerels and no anchovy, despite challenging ocean and weather conditions during the survey period.

The goal of the 2019 EFP survey will be to continue this work, generally as described in our 2018 EFP, and with a similar request of 600 mt sardine. We plan to meet early in 2019 to review data analysis and discuss the optimum time and weather period to conduct the 2019 survey. We also plan to focus on larger schools that were not readily available during our 2018 survey period, as large schools were either in the surf line, in MPAs or other areas off limits to fishing (e.g. Santa Monica Bay), over benthic obstacles (e.g. submerged pipeline), or visible only at night, which precluded setting on them.

I am attaching our 2018 EFP Application for reference. Analysis of this year's data is underway, and will be included in our updated EFP application to be submitted for final consideration next spring.

Thank you very much for your consideration of our renewed request for an EFP in 2019.

Best regards,

Diane Pleschner-Steele
Executive Director

