

October 4, 2018:

To: Chair Anderson and Members of the Pacific Fishery Management Council:

Re. Intention to (re) apply for an EFP to further the continuation of the:

Extension of the Southwest Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC)-Industry Collaborative “Proof of Concept Project” started in 2017 for Nearshore Surveillance in NW Coastal waters in conjunction with the SWFSC Acoustic Trawl Methodology Survey (ATM):

The West Coast Pelagic Conservation Group is working in concert with the Southwest Fisheries Science Center to reestablish the continuation of our 2017 overlap of an industry seine fishing vessel to acoustically surveil the inside waters (inshore of 35 fathoms) and take di minimis samples of coastal pelagic species with a seine net as considered appropriate by NMFS scientific staff to determine age structure and other biological data.

This collaborative research work has been outlined previously in an EFP application we withdrew at the November 2017 PFMC meeting due to a lack of funding and the anticipated difficulty of working our surveillance effort and the timing of transects in conjunction with the NOAA research vessel’s dual mission to survey for CPS species and to observe whale populations off the west coast.

It is noted that there will be few if any changes from the original EFP unless as directed by SWFSC staff. We may refine the sampling protocols slightly if so directed however we do not anticipate doing so at this point in time.

In accompaniment is the original EFP proposal from 2017. We thank you for the opportunity.

Sincerely,



Mike Okoniewski

Board Member;

West Coast Pelagic Conservation Group

C.c. Ms. Kristen Koch, Science & Research Director: SWFSC

Dr. Gerard DiNardo, Director, Fisheries Research Division: SWFSC