

**Elizabeth Reese <mssissippi406@yahoo.com> Fri, Feb 3, 2012 at 9:32 AM**  
Reply-To: Elizabeth Reese <mssissippi406@yahoo.com>  
To: [pmmc.comments@noaa.gov](mailto:pmmc.comments@noaa.gov)

Feb 3, 2012

Pacific Fishery Management Council

**As of 02/09/2012; 11:59 PM, the Council office  
has received 5,693 copies of this email.**

Dear Management Council,

I am writing to support the council's effort to maintain a healthy marine ecosystem and am urging it to take action to protect currently unexploited forage species.

Forage fish occupy a critical middle link in the marine food web. In light of growing global demand to turn them into feed for poultry, livestock, and aquaculture, I believe it is imperative for the council to act as soon as possible to prevent the expansion of new fisheries on forage.

The council's draft ecosystem plan notes that demand for nonmanaged forage species is likely to expand with the spectacular growth of aquaculture. The council cannot control global market trends, but it can protect marine ecosystems by holding off on opening new fisheries to catch vast quantities of baitfish for use as animal feed. Indeed, leaving enough forage fish in the water may be the single most important concrete action the council can take to maintain a balanced and resilient marine food web here on the Pacific coast.

Thank you for considering my comments and for your continued commitment to a productive marine environment.

Sincerely,

Ms. Elizabeth Reese  
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