

NOTICE OF INTENT TO CONDUCT EXEMPTED FISHING PERMIT ACTIVITIES

Northwest Sardine Survey, LLC
c/o Astoria Holdings
12 Bellweather Way, Suite 209
Bellingham, WA 98225

Dr. Donald McIssac
Executive Director
Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101
Portland, OR 97220

October 4, 2012

Dear Dr. McIssac:

As you know, the Northwest Sardine Survey, LLC has conducted an aerial sardine survey under exempted fishing permits (EFPs), approved by PFMC (Council) and granted by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), in recent years (2009, 2011, and 2012). This work has been used in stock assessments of Pacific sardine, to inform fisheries management.

We understand that the Council now has a streamlined process for reviewing recurring proposals; specifically: *“Proponents of recurring EFP proposals (those that are substantially similar to previously-conducted EFP research) submit a letter of intent, with a copy of the final EFP proposal from the previous year. The letter of intent should specific the general timing, the amount of fish that will be requested, survey protocols, and purpose of the EFP research, along with any anticipated changes from the previous years’ research.”* (Draft Council COP No. 23).

Please consider this our letter of intent to request an EFP to conduct the aerial sardine survey again in 2013. The timing, requested amount of fish (3000 mt), and survey protocols will be essentially the same as in 2012. A copy of our 2012 EFP application is attached.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jerry Thon,
Principal, NWSS LLC