



SAN DIEGO FISHERMEN'S WORKING GROUP
8021 Lemon Avenue, La Mesa ,CA 91941

Ocean Protection Council
1416 Ninth street 13th floor
Sacramento CA 95814

October 28, 2013

Valerie.Termini@resources.ca.gov

Dear Valerie Termini,

This letter is written in support of Resolution of the California Ocean Protection Council regarding the Advancement of Fisheries Management and Support of Fishing Communities.

The San Diego Fishermen's Working Group (SDFWG), was established in 2010 as a 501(c)(3) corporation. The organization was formed out of necessity to protect the commercial fishing interest and opportunities in San Diego. Our organization is comprised of fishermen from the ports in San Diego. The five directors of SDFWG represent the five major fishing gear types, which include trap, dive, net, experimental, and hook & line.

Our association believes that the resolution could be a big help in our pursuit of co-management and the collection of data needed to conduct our fisheries for both conservation and profitability. Co-management means a cooperative partnership between industry and government where partners share data and expertise to the benefit of the resource and the local economy. Fishermen too want to see resources managed using the best science available and this requires good data made accessible to all. Innovative partnerships between fishermen, scientists and managers around the world are contributing to more effective management in part by recognizing the role that fishermen can play as stewards of the resource. We are developing the social capital (Community Fishing Association) needed to partner in sustainable economic development.

We hope that the success of your resolution will contribute to these shared objectives.

Best regards,

Peter Halmay

peterhalmay@gmail.com

GEORGE L. OSBORN

LOBBYIST

November 13, 2013

The Honorable John Laird, Secretary and Chair
California Natural Resources Agency
Ocean Protection Council
1416 Ninth street 13th floor
Sacramento CA 95814

Dear Secretary Laird:

On behalf of my client, the California Association for Recreational Fishing, we support the California Ocean Protection Council resolution regarding the Advancement of Fisheries Management and Support of Fishing Communities.

The California Association for Recreational Fishing represents recreational anglers and the businesses they support throughout California. We believe that the resolution could be of great help in the collection of data needed to pursue fishery resources for both conservation and continued recreational fishing for today's anglers and their children and grandchildren. We do ask that Co-management means a cooperative partnership between recreational anglers and government, including tribal governments, where partners share data and expertise to the benefit of the resource, anglers and the local economy. Innovative partnerships between fishermen, scientists and managers, including Native American tribal interests are contributing to more effective management by recognizing the role that fishermen can play as stewards of the resource.

Thank you for considering our views.

We hope that the success of your resolution will contribute to these shared objectives.

Sincerely,



George L. Osborn

cc: Members, Ocean Protection Council
The Honorable Gavin Newsom
The Honorable Fran Pavley
The Honorable Toni Atkins

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November 14, 2013

John Laird, Secretary for Natural Resources
Chair, California Ocean Protection Council
California Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814
COPCpublic@resources.ca.gov

RE: OPC Resolution Regarding the Advancement of Fisheries Management and Support of Fishing Communities-**Support**

Dear Secretary Laird and Council Members:

Please accept this letter of support for the resolution under your consideration that would dedicate up to \$4 million to support fisheries projects that use the best available scientific information.

The resolution would help further fisheries management approaches and projects that actively involve a diverse array of stakeholders, including non-governmental organizations, industry, tribes, and government entities, to reach shared goals for a healthy and resilient ocean. Given California's challenging budget climate, achieving fisheries sustainability will depend on new partnerships, technologies, and co-management practices, and the OPC has a unique opportunity to advance these new approaches.

One initial focus for such a program within OPC could be the development of a state Fisheries Management Plan (FMP) for Pacific herring. This essential prey species in the California Current provides nourishment for a broad array of marine wildlife, from Pacific Flyway shorebirds exploiting the energy-rich roe during spawning events, to whales and salmon feeding off the coast. One year ago, the California Fish and Game Commission adopted a groundbreaking policy on "Forage Species" that laid out a new course for the management of this important group of species, both those currently subject to fisheries and those for which fisheries have not yet developed (attached as "Addendum" for your reference). Aside from market squid (which is already managed through a state FMP), Pacific herring is the most important existing fishery for a forage species that is currently managed by the state of California. It is, therefore, an ideal candidate for implementing the Commission's new policy.

Due to recent precautionary quotas, low herring prices, a recovering herring stock, and broad interest in this fishery, now is an opportune time to enshrine the precautionary management for this fishery envisioned by the Marine Life Management Act. An FMP that would codify some of the current precautionary measures might also benefit the industry because the measures currently in place might otherwise be easily removed under the annual ad-hoc management of this fishery. This effort could also help establish a less costly, more streamlined model for FMP

development by focusing on the essential components. Further, using this fishery as a model for more streamlined FMPs and "Forage Species" policy implementation will provide benefit a much wider suite of state fishery management endeavors.

In sum, the Pacific herring fishery represents a valuable opportunity for the OPC to support a collaborative effort that would help herring to flourish in California, benefit wildlife, and support a continued commercial fishery that provides this fresh, delicious, and local seafood to Californians.

The California Current Large Marine Ecosystem is globally important for its high productivity and the large numbers of species it supports. It is critical that fisheries are effectively managed in a way that accounts for their roles in the larger food web. Healthy fisheries mean a robust, stable ocean ecosystem, and sustainable fisheries management is essential for promoting locally caught seafood, working waterfronts, and healthy coastal economies. Healthy fisheries also support California's ocean economy through directed commercial and recreational fishing, and also through tourism associated with abundant wildlife like whales, dolphins, and sea birds. A healthy ocean ecosystem supports California's recreation and tourism economy that is worth more than \$12 billion annually and provides more than 250,000 jobs in the state.

For these reasons we support the resolution before you.

Sincerely,



Geoffrey G. Shester, Ph.D.
California Program Director



Anna Weinstein
Seabird and Marine Program Director

cc: Valerie Termini, OPC Project Manager (valerie.termini@resources.ca.gov)

Addendum: California State Forage Policy

Addendum: California Fish and Game Commission Policy on Forage Species

It is the policy of the Fish and Game Commission that:

I. For purposes of California fisheries management, forage species are defined as species that contribute significantly to the diets of larger organisms during some part of their life history, thereby transferring energy and nutrients to higher trophic levels in the ecosystem.

II. The Commission recognizes the importance of forage species to the marine ecosystem off California's coast and envisions management of forage species that: optimizes their ecological, economic and social values; accounts for the benefits rendered by forage species to other species, fisheries, wildlife, and the overall ecosystem; and considers recreational and commercial fishing interests and other economic sectors.

III. The Commission intends to provide adequate protection for forage species through management goals that:

- Are precautionary and utilize the best available science in management decisions using clear and transparent methods;
- Identify and progressively incorporate Essential Fishery Information (EFI) needed for ecosystem-based management of forage species, including physical factors, oceanographic conditions, the effects of fishing on forage species' dependent predators, the availability of alternative prey, spatio-temporal foraging hotspots for predators, and existing management, including marine protected areas;
- Prevent the development of new or expanded forage fisheries until EFI is available and applied to ensure the sustainability of target forage species and protection of its benefits as prey; and
- Facilitate consistency in the management of forage species, integrate with existing Fishery Management Plans, and encourage cooperation and collaboration across jurisdictions and international boundaries in managing forage species.

(Adopted: 11/07/12)

Available online at: <http://www.fgc.ca.gov/policy/p2fish.aspx#FORAGE>