

RE: Comments on Non-Agenda Items

Dear Members of the Pacific Fishery Management Council, I'm writing to ask that at the June Council meeting, you initiate changes to the federal plan for managing northern anchovy and other important West Coast forage fish species. These changes should allow catch limits for all these species to be updated annually based on the best available science, while removing the unnecessary distinction between the plan's active and monitored management categories. "Our duty to the whole, including to the unborn generations, bids us to restrain an unprincipled present-day minority from wasting the heritage of these unborn generations. The movement for the conservation of wildlife and the larger movement for the conservation of all our natural resources are essentially democratic in spirit, purpose and method." -- Theodore Roosevelt Anchovy populations are known to rise and fall sharply over short periods of time, yet they are managed using fixed catch limits that can remain the same for years, potentially harming dependent predators and running a risk of overfishing when populations are low. Forage fish like anchovy are simply too important to be managed this way. By amending the fishery management plan (FMP) for anchovy and other coastal pelagic species, the Council can begin to actively manage this crucial forage fish by using readily available, up-to-date estimates of anchovy numbers and setting catch limits accordingly. These limits should be reviewed annually and updated as needed in response to significant population changes. "Every man who appreciates the majesty and beauty of the wilderness and of wild life, should strike hands with the farsighted men who wish to preserve our material resources, in the effort to keep our forests and our game beasts, game-birds, and game-fish--indeed, all the living creatures of prairie and woodland and seashore--from wanton destruction. Above all, we should realize that the effort toward this end is essentially a democratic movement." -- Theodore Roosevelt Please eliminate the distinction between the active and monitored stock categories in the FMP and shift anchovy to annual management so that catch limits are updated regularly using the best available science. By ensuring that management of this essential forage fish is active, science-based, and considers the broader marine ecosystem, the Council can help maintain both a healthy Pacific Ocean and productive, sustainable fisheries. "A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise." -- Aldo Leopold Thank you for your consideration of my comments. Please do NOT add my name to your mailing list. I will learn about future developments on this issue from other sources. Sincerely, Christopher Lish San Rafael, CA