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### THE LAST WORD

THE NEED FOR UNITY – AND A STRONG ASSOCIATION – HAS NEVER BEEN GREATER.

CWPA PROMOTES THE 'GOOD NEWS' AND PROTECTS ACCESS FOR THE FUTURE OF CA'S WETFISH INDUSTRY.

EDITOR: D.B. PLESCHNER

## FY 2011–12 ...THE YEAR AT A GLANCE

In FY 2011-12 your executive director spent more than a month of days attending meetings on behalf of CWPA:

- 15.5 days in meetings related to federal CPS issues, including attendance at CPS Advisory Subpanel and Stock Assessment Review Panel meetings for sardine and Pacific mackerel, and testimony at the Pacific Fishery Management Council;
- 14 days in meetings related to state fishery management issues, including 8 trips to Sacramento to meet with Legislators about AB 1299, Oceana's 'forage' policy, as well as Fish and Game Commission meetings and meetings with individual Commissioners,
- 4 days attending meetings related to CWPA and wetfish industry business, including the TriNational Sardine Forum, which CWPA co-hosted with the SW Fisheries Science Center.

The good news for the year was another banner squid season!! CWPA advanced our collaborative field research program for market squid, conducted another extensive post-season survey of spawning grounds in S.CA. and became official research partners with the Department of Fish and Game.

### *Protecting access to fishery resources*

#### Market squid:

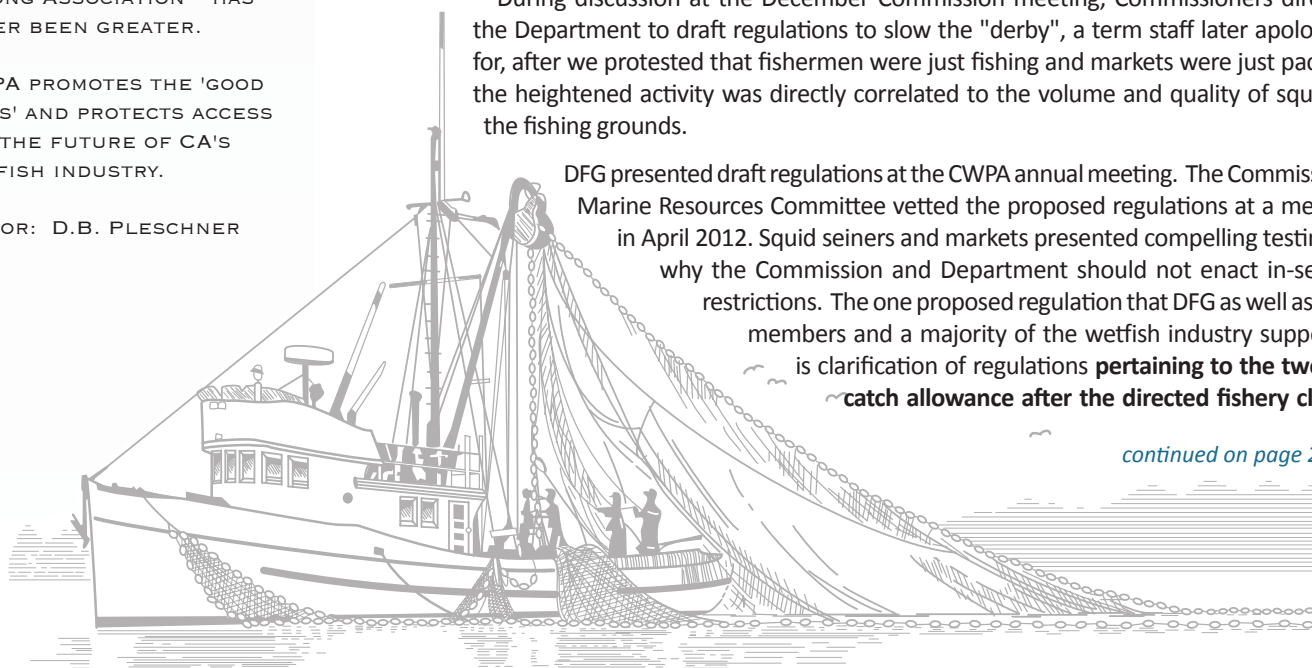
Banner season indeed! The 2011 squid season was even more productive than 2010, predicted by our paralarvae counts in January. An unusual occurrence, squid were available virtually all year – and so abundant that the fishery harvested the 118,000 ton max cap and closed in mid-November, a month earlier than in 2010. The industry landed more than 40,000 tons in 18 days in November – DFG reported more than 900 landings between Ventura, Port Hueneme and San Pedro that month.

The fishing frenzy spawned heightened attention from both DFG and the environmental community, especially after a few individuals asked the Fish and Game Commission to reopen the fishery because squid were so abundant.

During discussion at the December Commission meeting, Commissioners directed the Department to draft regulations to slow the "derby", a term staff later apologized for, after we protested that fishermen were just fishing and markets were just packing; the heightened activity was directly correlated to the volume and quality of squid on the fishing grounds.

DFG presented draft regulations at the CWPA annual meeting. The Commission's Marine Resources Committee vetted the proposed regulations at a meeting in April 2012. Squid seiners and markets presented compelling testimony why the Commission and Department should not enact in-season restrictions. The one proposed regulation that DFG as well as MRC members and a majority of the wetfish industry supported is clarification of regulations **pertaining to the two-ton catch allowance after the directed fishery closes.**

*continued on page 2*



## A CLOSER LOOK...

*Oceana challenges CPS fishery management... at the PFMC, the Legislature, and federal court*

The biggest challenge to the wetfish industry in 2011 was AB 1299 (Huffman), sponsored by Oceana. After failing to move the Pacific Fishery Management Council to restrict CPS fishing, Oceana attempted an end-around in the California Legislature. The 'forage fish' policy proposed to restrict fisheries until DFG research proved no harm to the ecosystem. The bill posed a major threat to the squid fishery and other state-managed fisheries, despite Oceana's denial of this fact.

AB 1299 squeaked through the Assembly, and slid past the Senate Natural Resources Committee on a 'courtesy' vote. CWPA's ED and Monterey harbor master Steve Scheiblauber made eight trips to the Capitol to meet with legislators. CWPA secured meetings with San Pedro Senator Rod Wright and LA Senator Ted Lieu, and gained the support of the business communities in Los Angeles, Ventura and Monterey. CWPA fishermen and processors also staged a trip to Sacramento for the Senate Appropriations hearing. More than 30 fishermen walked the halls of the Capitol, meeting with key representatives while waiting for the bill to be called, and when AB 1299 finally was heard, in a show of solidarity, an impressive parade of fishermen marched to the microphone to register their opposition. The impact was awesome.

AB 1299 would have been defeated had the bill reached the Senate floor, but it never got out of the Appropriations Committee, where it still lies dormant.



*San Pedro Senator Rod Wright met with wetfish industry reps. re: AB 1299 and toured the dock in San Pedro.*

### *Legal Challenge:*

Oceana's next move was to file a federal lawsuit challenging Amendment 13 of the CPS FMP, alleging overfishing among other grievances. Filed December 13, 2011 in San Francisco District Court, the complaint was amended to include Endangered Species Act allegations (none of them true!). Oceana wants the Pacific Council to draft an EIS and new management plan correcting all the deficiencies (and sharply reducing harvest limits) within one year.

The CWPA Board teleconferenced with respected WA DC attorney George Mannina, to discuss options and answer the question: do you trust the government to adequately defend industry interests? Answering no, the Board voted to intervene, and the Court approved our participation, so the legal war – very costly but imperative to protect the future – has begun.

## 2011-12 CONTINUED

### Market Squid (continued)

**That allowance was intended for incidental catch in OTHER fisheries. DFG reported serious problems with enforcement of the two-ton fishery, and pressed its case again at the May Commission meeting, receiving apparent Commission consensus.**

**After public comment, where CWPA presented our concerns re: in-season management, the Commission voted to go to notice on the entire regulatory package. A final decision will come later this year. But Richard Rogers voiced his opinion that the government should not engage in micro-managing business (an intriguing portent)... We'll keep you posted on the next act.**

**Meanwhile, CWPA's squid research program is making strides to identify factors that trigger squid abundance. Our new scientist on contract, Joel Van**

Noord, is mapping squid concentrations and catches vs. environmental parameters. We've also developed a study plan for systematic surveys of the squid grounds in cooperation with DFG. This research is important to assure the continuation of a sustainable fishery.

#### **Sardine:**

The sardine harvest guideline approved for 2011 dropped to 50,000 mt with a directed fishery HG of 46,300 mt. Although disappointing, the aerial survey still influenced the stock assessment. DEPM alone would have produced an HG of less than 18,000 mt.

CWPA did not participate in sardine research in 2011, but the PNW did, (we loaned the use of our camera system). All indices, including DEPM, aerial and acoustic surveys showed increased abundance. All the data were reviewed at a STAR panel in fall 2011, and the final

stock assessment yielded a 2012 HG of 109,000 mt, with a directed fishery HG of about 94,000 mt, after subtracting 3,000 mt for another PNW aerial survey, and 9,000 mt for Treaty Tribal allocation.

A coastwide synoptic sardine survey is planned for summer 2012, including both Canada and Mexico. DFG has secured use of their Partanavia aircraft and CWPA is partnering with the Department, providing use of our camera and a spotter pilot to run transects near the mainland coast and Channel Islands during the time of the synoptic cruise.

DFG plans to analyze the photos, using the same technique as in the PNW. This survey may be useful as an index of recruitment. It will measure sardines in nearshore waters, which are missed in current stock assessments.

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### The last word... (bears repeating)

In unity there is strength – and there has never been a greater need for strength, and a strong association!

It's crystal clear that fishery management is becoming ever more restrictive. The Magnuson Reauthorization Act mandate to prevent overfishing required all federal FMPs to set Overfishing Levels and Annual Catch Limits to account for uncertainty, and that translates into additional buffers on harvest guidelines. Amendment 13, the CPS FMP's effort to bring wetfish management into compliance, is now being challenged by Oceana in federal court. Oceana seeks sharp reductions in harvest limits, and because squid is included as a monitored stock in the CPS FMP, the squid fishery is at the center of the bulls eye target.

The California Fish & Wildlife Vision Process also seeks to reinvent California fishery management. At risk are the current authorities vested in the Department of Fish and Game and the Commission, as Governor Brown grapples with a massive \$16 billion budget shortfall.

CWPA's executive director is a member of the Vision stakeholder group, and we're working proactively to protect the interests of the wetfish industry. The future holds great challenges, but with

cooperation from the wetfish industry, at large, and unity of purpose, we can assure a sustainable future.

CWPA is meeting today's (and tomorrow's) challenges with renewed vigor! Thanks very much for your help! United we stand!!

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS – 2011-12

President	Vince Torre Tri-Marine Fish Company
Vice President	David Haworth Vent.-Hueneme fisherman
Treasurer-Secretary	Mike Carpenter Sun Coast Calamari
San Pedro (alternate)	Vince Torre Vanessa DeLuca, State Fish Nick Jurlin Richie Ashley
(alternate)	
Ventura-Hueneme (alternate)	Mike Carpenter John Gingerich David Haworth Neil Guglielmo
(alternate)	
Monterey (alternate)	Sal Tringali, MFC Pete Guglielmo, SCS David Crabbe
(alternate)	Anthony Russo
Diane Pleschner-Steele	Executive Director

## 2011-12

### WHERE THE MONEY WENT

#### SUMMARY

#### SPECIES ASSESSED APR 11-MAR '12

P.MACKEREL	1,376 TONS
J.MACKEREL	93
SARDINE	34,085
SQUID	163,163
ANCHOVY	5,607
OTHER	292
<b>TOTAL (ROUNDED)</b>	<b>213,025 ST</b>
<b>(FISHERMEN &amp; PROCESSORS COMBINED)</b>	

#### INCOME (ROUNDED)

RETAINED 3/31/11	<b>\$206,112.</b>
DEPOSITED 2011-12	
FISHERMEN	195,588.
PROCESSORS	221,798.
TOTAL INTEREST	\$644.
ASSOCIATE MEMBERS	1,500.
TRI-NATIONAL SARDINE	5,314.
CPS DEFENSE FUND	1,000.
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$425,845.</b>

#### EXPENSES

BUSINESS TRAVEL TOTAL	13,980.
AIRFARE	8,106.
AUTO	1,426.
LODGING	2366.
MEALS +	2,083.
MISC.	133.
CONTRIBUTIONS	1,388.
DBP&A SERVICES	66,000.
DUES & SUBSCRIPTIONS	50.
MEETING EXPENSE	2,968.
OFFICE EXPENSES (TOTAL)	9,307.
OPERATIONS	1,444.
SUPPLIES	1,268.
POST + PRINT	2,522.
PHONE	4,093.
PROFESSIONAL (INS,CPA,GOV,LEGAL)	16,518.
CPS DEFENSE- LAWSUIT	21,941.
PUBLIC RELATIONS	24,000.
SCIENTIFIC CONSULTING	22,465.
SQUID RESEARCH	94,577.
SARDINE RESEARCH	
FALL (LIDAR + C.O.)	31,138.
WEBSITE	1,445.
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$316,727.</b>
NET ORDINARY INCOME	109,117.
OTHER INCOME/EXPENSE	4,112.
NET INCOME 3/31/11	113,229.
<b>BALANCE MAR. 31</b>	<b>\$319,338.</b>

#### 2011-12 CONTINUED

Perhaps the biggest access challenge in 2011 was our fight to defeat AB 1299, but there were other issues as well. We continue to monitor EPA actions pertaining to NPDES, pollution discharge, permits. The current exemption for commercial fishing vessels is due to expire, and EPA issued proposed rules for future compliance for two tiers of vessels, with the division at 79 feet. We staged teleconferences for owners of large (79 ft and above) and smaller vessels to discuss issues and concerns, and submitted substantive comments. We continue pursuing a continuation of the current exemption for all commercial fishing vessels.

#### Promote Sustainable Production & Facilitate Communications

Two goals of CWPA are to enhance sustainable production and facilitate communications.

In 2011-12 CWPA made 8 trips to Sacramento to meet with Legislators regarding AB 1299. We also conferred with Fish & Game Commission, Department and Congressional representatives on issues of importance to industry.

CWPA also updated our website: [www.CaliforniaWetfish.org](http://www.CaliforniaWetfish.org) and contracted with media consultant Ray Young and Halldin PR to help us develop a media outreach program and maintain our public information blog: [CaliforniaWetfish.org/FishingNews](http://CaliforniaWetfish.org/FishingNews)



## CWPA GOALS

### ***Maintain Access to Resources***

- Track legislation & coordinate response
- Seek grant funding for research
- Communicate with management agencies to develop fishery management plans

### ***Promote Sustainable Production***

- Track issues & coordinate response
- Communicate with authorities re: production issues
- Facilitate resolution
- \*Sponsor research

### ***Facilitate Communication within and outside wetfish industry***

- Serve as liaison between fishermen and processors
- Serve as liaison between industry and management
- \*Produce periodic newsletters to inform industry of news and issues

## CWPA — PURPOSE AND FUTURE

In today's political climate, with Legislative term limits and changes in administration every few years, fisheries need an industry group in place to maintain the fishery profile: the fishery's "institutional" knowledge base and long-term goals. The goal of CWPA is to ensure the wetfish industry puts its best foot forward!

A non-profit organization such as CWPA commands attention despite political or management climate. It facilitates interaction and consensus building between fishery managers and industry, and it fosters communication with state and federal fishery managers as well as the Legislature and Congress. Maintaining a clear presence in management circles is critically important now, with the state focus on the Marine Life Management Act and Marine Life Protection Act, and federal management guided by precautionary principles in the Magnuson Act. The current push for Sanctuary "management" of marine resources through MPAs adds yet another challenge. Maintaining "eyes on the ground" and a continued presence in management circles is critically important to stay in business.

In this era of precautionary management, it is essential to base management decisions on good science. Without good data, the precautionary principle will be applied and, as a result, fishermen and processors may not have a viable fishery. Field research is expensive, and that's where industry groups such as CWPA can play a critically important role. Research is the key to the future!