

Eredita...pass it on

VOL. 5 #1 JUNE 2009

PUBLICATION OF THE CALIFORNIA WETFISH PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION

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THE SOUTH COAST MLPA
INITIATIVE PROCESS

THE LAST WORD

AT THE 2008 ANNUAL MEETING THE BOARD VOTED TO CHANGE FISCAL YEAR. THE NEW FY RUNS APRIL 2009 – MARCH 2010. WATCH FOR THE NEXT ANNUAL MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT IN LATE FEBRUARY 2010. THE NEXT ANNUAL REPORT WILL FOLLOW LATER IN SUMMER 2010.

EDITOR: D.B. PLESCHNER

2008 ... THE YEAR AT A GLANCE

In aggregate, your executive director spent more than one month of the year attending meetings in 2008:

– 15 days in meetings related to federal CPS issues, including attendance at CPS Advisory Subpanel and Stock Assessment Review Panel meetings for sardine and mackerel, and testimony at the November 2008 meeting of the Pacific Fishery Management Council

– 17 days in meetings related to state fishery management issues, including Fish and Game Commission meetings, meetings with individual Commissioners, meetings of the MLPA Science Advisory Team, and two days at the Capitol meeting with Assemblyman George Plescia and members of the Assembly Water Parks and Wildlife Committee in our successful effort to kill AB 2712, the 'forage' bill.

– 6 days attending meetings related to CWPA activities, including squid research and public relations. Meeting venues stretched from San Diego to Portland OR, and points in-between.

CWPA also participated actively in the California Fisheries Coalition, maintaining efforts to achieve a science-based outcome in the MLPA Initiative. In addition, CWPA advanced our collaborative -field research program for squid, and worked to cement a cooperative agreement with the Department of Fish and Game as partners in research and advisors in management decisions.

Protecting access to fishery resources

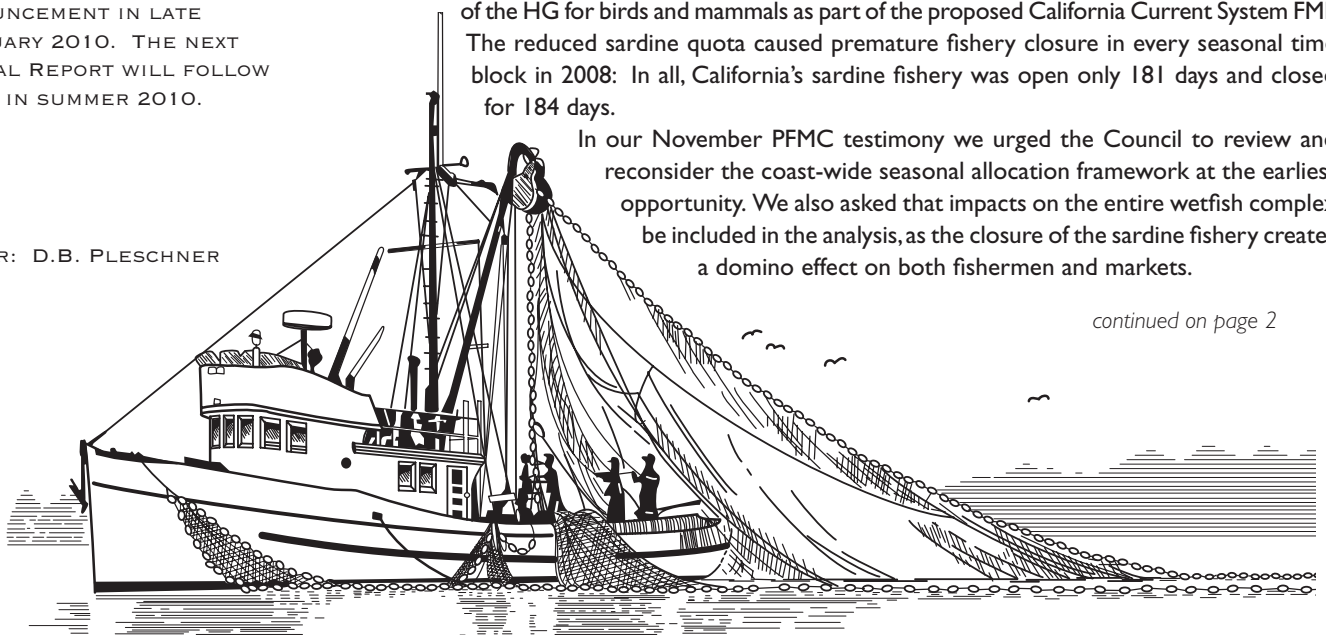
Access issues ran the gamut in 2008:

Sardine:

The PFMC approved a 40 percent reduction in the sardine harvest guideline for the 2008 fishery, but despite the ecosystem/forage considerations built into the federal CPS FMP, NGOs led by Oceana still tried to pull an end-around the Council by legislating even more restrictions through AB 2712, an ill-conceived effort to protect 'forage' fish. Thanks to scientific support from Doyle Hanan and Richard Parrish, we succeeded in dispelling the myths and killing the bill, at least for this year. Unfortunately the forage campaign didn't remain dead for long; a band of west coast NGOs is targeting sardine as its poster fish in renewed efforts to protect forage fish, now aiming to establish a set allocation off the top of the HG for birds and mammals as part of the proposed California Current System FMP. The reduced sardine quota caused premature fishery closure in every seasonal time block in 2008: In all, California's sardine fishery was open only 181 days and closed for 184 days.

In our November PFMC testimony we urged the Council to review and reconsider the coast-wide seasonal allocation framework at the earliest opportunity. We also asked that impacts on the entire wetfish complex be included in the analysis, as the closure of the sardine fishery creates a domino effect on both fishermen and markets.

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A CLOSER LOOK...

South Coast MLPA Initiative Process Steams Ahead . . .

The MLPA freight train roared into southern CA in summer 2008. MLPA Initiative staff (dubbed the I-team) conducted rounds of workshops and appointed the south coast regional stakeholder group (SCRSO). *Ciro Ferrigno* is our wetfish rep, with *Buck Everingham*, *Everingham Bait* in San Diego, as his alternate. After two break-in meetings, the SCRSO began drawing MPA lines on maps in January '09.

Meanwhile, the CA Fisheries Coalition (CWPA is a founding member) in partnership with *Ecotrust* won a grant to develop a *Fishermen's Information Network (FIN)* and advisory Committee (FIC) to assist the SCRSO in its work. *Neil Guglielmo* and *Richie Ashley* volunteered to serve, our designated reps, and I coordinated the effort. The FIC/FIN includes recreational as well as commercial fishermen, and the group came together in a united and organized (and unprecedented) campaign to battle the MLPA railroad job.

The one bright spot in an otherwise dismal process: world-class scientists *Ray Hilborn* and *Carl Walters* continue efforts to correct science assumptions and integrate existing fishery management into MPA design.



Ray Hilborn led a subcommittee of the Science Advisory Team to the finding that MPAs allowing squid and CPS fishing still receive high protection and conservation benefit. *Carl Walters* is training fishermen how to use a scientific model to enable the FIC/FIN MPA network proposal, External A, to meet science guidelines while minimizing economic pain to south coast fishing communities. The SCRSO unanimously voted for XA to continue on to Round 3. Final MPA proposals are slated for presentation to the Fish & Game Commission in December '09.

2008 CONTINUED

Sardine (con't): CWPA also supported PNW industry efforts in 2008 to develop a second index involving an aerial-spotter survey, scientifically calibrated with point sets to measure estimates of biomass. This research is crucial to validate sardine abundance and develop accurate biomass assessments, on which future sardine harvest guidelines will be based.

Early in 2009 CWPA went to the mat at the PFMC to ensure that CA could access the research fish set aside for the industry survey in 2009. The methodology earned a favorable review during the May 2009 STAR panel, and the Council approved the Experimental Fishing Permit application at its June meeting. The final rule providing an additional 1,200 mt of sardine for the coastwide research project was expected to be finalized in time to conduct the survey, which is expected to take place in August. '09

Squid: As principal investigator of our squid research program, *Dr. Doyle Hanan* led CWPA squid research efforts again in 2008, as we concluded work on elements of the \$98,000 grant awarded by SWFSC. The pilot project was completed and the final report submitted in spring 2009.

CWPA continues to maintain the field program initiated under the SWFSC grant, funding the research in-house. *David Haworth* again served field captain in charge of coordinating fishermen. *Neil Guglielmo* and *John Solomon* helped with the research, and *Nick Jurlin* also learned the protocol to tow bongo net. Grateful thanks to all the fishermen participating in this research for their help!!

Doyle also connected with a CPFV skipper willing to help with our Biosonics mapping surveys. *Jason Diamond*, *Stardust Sportfishing* in Santa Barbara, mounted a davit on his boat specifically to tow the Biosonics sled, and is working with *Doyle* to map squid concentrations on weekends.

Doyle also drafted a Market Squid Research Plan at the recommendation of DFG brass.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS – 2009

President	<i>Vince Torre</i> <i>Tri-Marine Fish Company</i>
Vice President	<i>David Haworth</i> <i>Hueneme fisherman</i>
Treasurer- Secretary	<i>John Gingerich</i> <i>Hueneme Fish Co.</i>
San Pedro (alternate)	<i>Vince Torre</i> <i>Vanessa DeLuca, State Fish</i>
(alternate)	<i>Ciro Ferrigno</i> <i>Nick Jurlin</i>
Ventura-Hueneme (alternate)	<i>John Gingerich</i> <i>Pete Guglielmo, SCS</i> <i>David Haworth</i>
(alternate)	<i>Neil Guglielmo</i>
Monterey (alternate)	<i>Joe Cappuccio, Del Mar</i> <i>Sal Tringali, MFC</i> <i>Frank Tomich</i> <i>David Crabbe</i> <i>Anthony Russo</i>
Executive Director	<i>Diane Pleschner-Steele</i>

**Promote Sustainable Production
&
Facilitate Communications**

Two additional goals of CWPA are to enhance sustainable production and facilitate communications within and outside the wetfish industry. Beyond facilitating inter-industry communication, in 2008 CWPA communicated extensively with state and federal officials, providing both written and oral testimony regarding issues of importance to the wetfish industry. MLPA and sardine topped the list of hot-button topics.

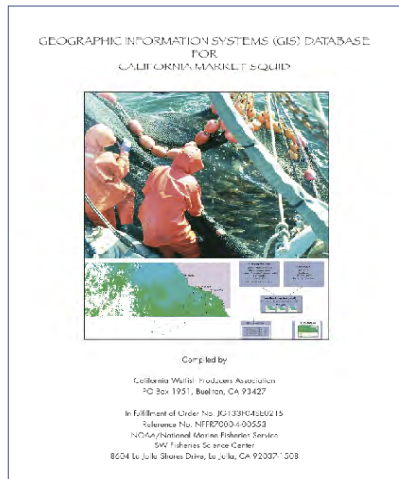
One additional highlight: our concerted efforts to educate the Legislature about AB 2712, the 'forage' bill sponsored by Oceana, succeeded in convincing the bill author to withdraw it. Legislative staff later remarked that such voluntary withdrawal of legislation is an unusual occurrence.

CWPA also continued our website: www.CaliforniaWetfish.org to inform the public and promote CA's historic wetfish industry.

SQUID RESEARCH PROGRESS

As noted on page 2, CWPA's market squid research efforts in 2008 expanded on quarterly CalCOFI research cruises that capture squid paralarvae offshore during the months of February, April, July and November.

All data gathered in the CWPA squid research program are entered into a **GIS database**. The initial phase of the database was completed in 2006, continued in 2007 and 2008. The database contains fishery independent data from CalCOFI cruises from the 1980s through 2008, paralarvae studies done by Dr. Lou Zeidberg under contract to DFG in the early 2000s, and now also includes fishermen's nearshore bongo tows, along with environmental indicators such as Sea Surface Temperature, current patterns and chlorophyll concentrations.



In his earlier work Lou Zeidberg theorized that squid abundance could be predicted by the abundance of paralarvae six-to-nine months earlier. After several years of our study, Doyle is beginning to see the possible relationship. By relating abundance to environmental triggers, we hope to gain a better understanding of the enigmatic squid resource.

Mapping local biomass via hydroacoustic echosounder adds another piece of the puzzle. Doyle deployed our Biosonics DT-X at Catalina and the northern Channel Islands in 2008 and plans to continue this work in 2009.

The database will be updated periodically as new data are received, including CalCOFI and fishermen's bongo tows, hydroacoustic estimates of abundance, and ultimately, aggregated catches when we cement our data-sharing agreement with DFG. The database enables squid scientists to track squid abundance in varying environmental conditions. Our goal is to document patterns in abundance over time, collaborating with state and federal scientists to share research data and provide recommendations on future fishery management.



**2008
WHERE THE MONEY WENT
SUMMARY**

SPECIES ASSESSED JAN-NOV '08

P.MACKEREL	4,550 TONS
J.MACKEREL	287
SARDINE	106,811
SQUID	63,392
ANCHOVY	28,550
OTHER	380
TOTAL (ROUNDED)	206,674 ST

INCOME (ROUNDED)

2007 RETAINED	\$164,068.
DEPOSITED 2008	208,610.
FISHERMEN	\$ 93,725.
PROCESSORS	\$114,885.
BANK INTEREST	613.
CD INTEREST	748.
TOTAL GRANTS	9,025.
ASSOCIATE MEMBERS	750.
TOTAL INCOME	\$219,747.

EXPENSES

BUSINESS TRAVEL TOTAL	10,067.
AIRFARE	\$2,683.
AUTO	\$2,913.
LODGING	\$2,702.
MEALS +	\$1,676.
MISC.	\$ 93.
DONATIONS (CFC)	5,000.
DBP&A SERVICES	59,900.
DUES & SUBSCRIPTIONS	1,652.
GRANT EXPENSE (SQUID)	6,687.
MEETING EXPENSE	2,566.
OFFICE EXPENSES (TOTAL)	6,191.
OPERATIONS	\$1,773.
SUPPLIES	\$1,631.
POST + PRINT	\$ 741.
PHONE	\$2,015.
PROFESSIONAL (CPA,GOV,LEGAL)	13,627.
RESEARCH EXPENSE	91,170.
PROGRAM EXPENSE (MLPA)	31,005.
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$228,883.
NET ORDINARY INCOME	\$-9,136.
OTHER INCOME	1,348..
NET INCOME	-7,788.
BALANCE DEC. 31	\$156,280.

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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 facilitates 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!