

**Proposal #:** 20WCR004-018

**Project Title:** Utilize an industry-seine fishing vessel to enhance data collection and improve assessment of Pacific Coast Coastal Pelagic Species for the benefit of the fishing industry, marketing enterprises and our fishing communities

**Applicant:** Ocean Gold Seafoods, Inc.

**Priority Addressed** Priority #2 – Science or Technology that Promotes Sustainable U.S. Seafood Production and Harvesting

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**Abstract:** The Coastal Pelagic Species industry feels strongly that it has a stake in robust fisheries management of this complex and dynamic assemblage, which can only be achieved with extensive data collection efforts. Initiated by industry, this collaborative industry-federal-state research project builds on previous success, using an industry purse seine vessel to conduct complementary nearshore acoustic surveys and sampling in conjunction with a NOAA-Southwest Fisheries Science Center Acoustic Trawl Methodology (ATM) survey and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW).

The overarching goal of this project is to expand data collection and increase spatial coverage for commercially important Pacific sardine and other coastal pelagic species (CPS) known to exist in nearshore waters too shallow to be surveyed by the federal research vessel. In order to contribute to sustainable management and generate environmentally compatible socioeconomic benefit to CPS harvesters and processors, the FV Lisa Marie, over 35 days in summer-fall 2020, will conduct acoustic and biological sampling of the nearshore CPS assemblage from the Canadian/U.S. border to northern California in conjunction with the NOAA ATM survey vessel; and conduct additional studies with the WDFW to evaluate sampling strategies.

**Summary of potential commercial benefits to the fishing community of the research results:** This project aims expand and improve the data collection and spatial coverage for Pacific sardine and other coastal pelagic species (CPS) via collaborative research. Fishermen and seafood processors stand to benefit through its potential to document nearshore biomass CPS that may not be observed in current federal surveys. Improved science potentially strengthens harvest opportunity; the commercial benefit manifests itself in several ways. 1) improvement of fleet and processor operational efficiencies by better planning for the fishery; 2) building and stabilizing markets; and 3) cash income from the fish and vessel activity to our communities.

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