

Letters: Pew says Seafood.com inaccurately reported their stance on forage fish

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To the Editor:

Recent reports in Seafood News mischaracterized statements from representatives of the Pew Charitable Trusts and inaccurately reported facts regarding a scientific report on forage fish.

In an article in Seafood News on Thursday May 9, 2013 (**[Pew's recommendations and assumptions in calling for conservation of forage fish questioned](#)**), the industry trade group Saving Seafood made incorrect statements about a Pew presentation on forage fish and the work of the Lenfest Forage Fish Task Force. The Task Force brought together a group of scientists for a comprehensive examination of the science and management of forage fish populations. The piece titled "Pew's recommendations and assumptions in calling for conservation of forage fish questioned" claimed that the work of the task force had not been peer reviewed. That is false.

The Lenfest task force report's acknowledgements clearly state that it was peer-reviewed by three independent reviewers. Furthermore, the task force submitted a scientific paper on the value of these prey species. That paper was peer reviewed and published in Fish and Fisheries, a leading scientific journal in the field.

A separate item published the same day by Seafood News editor John Sackton (**[Big environmental push for new fisheries regs slowed at NOAA Managing Fisheries Conference in DC](#)**) inaccurately characterized statements by Pew's director of U.S. Oceans, Lee Crockett, who participated in a panel discussion at the conference Managing Our Nation's Fisheries III in Washington, D.C.

Crockett did not, as the piece claimed, challenge the conference's final proceedings on forage fish. Rather, Crockett sought clarification on how conference findings on rebuilding depleted fish populations and setting annual catch limits were to be presented so that all points of view would be represented. Pew was a co-sponsor of the conference, which will inform the legislative process for possible improvements to the nation's law on fisheries management.

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