

COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON FISHERY
MANAGEMENT PLAN (FMP) AMENDMENTS TO IMPLEMENT
ANNUAL CATCH LIMIT (ACL) REQUIREMENTS

The Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT) reviewed the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) guidelines on National Standard 1 (NS1), including the implementation of Annual Catch Limits (ACLs), at its February 10-11, 2009 meeting in La Jolla, California. The CPSMT notes that the CPS FMP, through its CPS harvest control rules, recognizes the cyclical nature of CPS populations, buffers against overfishing, and explicitly reduces harvest as biomass declines. These and other aspects of the FMP make the current Council management of CPS amenable to the new NS1 guidelines.

The CPSMT reviewed and commented on the Council staff proposals in Agenda Item C.3.a, Attachment 3 and recommends continuing to develop the proposed approaches as the Council moves forward with efforts to bring the CPS FMP (including CPS harvest control rules) into compliance with the new NS1 guidelines.

In addition to the scoping issues presented in Agenda Item C.3.a, Attachment 3, the CPSMT identified the following items for the Council to consider during the amendment process:

- Develop and define accountability measures for addressing potential future overfishing events. Both postseason and inseason accountability measures need to be refined and clearly defined in the FMP. The CPSMT discussed ways to improve the timeliness and accuracy of inseason landing reports, as well as ways to incorporate flexibility and efficiencies into the inseason release of available harvest and the closure of fisheries.
- The CPSMT recommends that the accounting of CPS in the live bait fishery, as well as CPS release mortality in the directed fishery, be included in the revision of the FMP. Inseason monitoring and management of the relatively small live bait landings largely occurs after the conclusion of the fishing season under the current regime. The CPSMT discussed a range of ways to address these minor sources of mortality. This is an issue that needs further development as the FMP amendment process proceeds.
- The CPSMT noted that the proposed amendment of the FMP provides a unique opportunity to ensure that all aspects of the FMP are contemporary and in compliance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and the National Standard guidelines. It would be efficient and helpful to the CPSMT and the Council if NMFS and the Council staff could summarize any known deficiencies in the CPS FMP, not only in regard to NS1 guidelines.
- The CPSMT discussed that the broad prohibition on krill harvest, although implemented largely on ecosystem principles, could prevent krill from being included in the FMP as an ecosystem component. If krill are considered “in the fishery” there will need to be further development of FMP language regarding the unique application of management measures including annual catch levels for a prohibited harvest species.