

COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON
NMFS CLIMATE SCIENCE STRATEGY UPDATE

The Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel (CPSAS) reviewed the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Draft Climate Science Strategy (Agenda Item E.3.b, NMFS Report). The CPSAS appreciates NOAA's recognition that the climate and oceans are changing and that the impacts to ecosystems, communities, and fisheries must be addressed. While climate science research should be a priority, it should not supplant important research activities focused on basic stock assessment and surveys.

We understand that the intent of this document is to lay a framework for a national strategy to address climate change impacts on resources, ecosystems and communities. We agree with the finding that each region will have a unique combination of climate-related challenges, and strategic plans will thus differ region by region.

The CPSAS appreciates consideration of the following points, which should be shared by all regions:

- Standardized data collection, a coastwide network of nearshore monitoring stations in each region, and partnerships with ocean-dependent fishery interests will be beneficial to expanding local knowledge. In addition, it is important for NOAA's climate strategy to coordinate and partner with multiple agencies and entities that are already working on these issues. For example, on the west coast such groups include the Ocean Acidification-Hypoxia Panel, regional Integrated Ocean Observing System agencies, Pacific Marine Environmental Lab and others.
- NOAA Fisheries should articulate the need for process-based research, but funding should not be at the expense of existing field surveys focused on developing biomass estimates for fished stocks, which are essential to develop management measures such as overfishing limit, acceptable biological catch etc. Additional funding should be allocated for the "climate" mission without taking it away from stock assessment surveys and assessments.