

COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON PROPOSED LANGUAGE FOR SMALL-SCALE FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT

The Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT) developed proposed language to amend the Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS) Fishery Management Plan (FMP), in order to accommodate the Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Council) intent to allow for small-scale directed CPS fishing operations to continue, after the directed fishery is closed. The CPSMT submitted a report in the advance April 2017 Briefing Book (Agenda Item G.4.a, CPSMT Report), and is providing this supplemental proposed FMP amendment language, for Council consideration as Amendment 16 to the CPS FMP.

The CPSMT determined that one section should be revised (4.8), one section (5.2) should be added, and the existing Section 5.2 will be renumbered as 5.3, as indicated in underlined/strikethrough text below.

4.8 Annual Specifications and Announcement of Harvest Levels

Each year, the Secretary will publish in the *Federal Register* the final specifications for all CPS Actively managed by the Council. The total U.S. harvest will be allocated to the various fisheries as ACLs [annual catch limits], HGs [harvest guidelines] or ACTs [annual catch targets], or as quotas.

In calculating ACLs, ACTs, HGs and quotas for each species, an estimate of the incidental catch of each species caught while fishermen are targeting other species will be taken into account. Therefore, the total HG will consist of an incidental catch portion and a directed fishery portion. In general, HGs or ACTs will be used to describe direct and incidental take, will be set in accordance with harvest control rules, and will be below the ACL to take into account management uncertainty and additional known sources of mortality such as discards, bycatch, research take, and live bait fisheries. This will be done to minimize the chances of exceeding the target harvest levels and the ACL.

If the HG, ACL, or ACT for the directed fishery is reached, the directed fishery will be closed by an automatic action and incidental catch will continue to be allowed under the incidental catch allowance, which is expressed in an amount of fish or a percentage of a load (Section 5.1). Minor directed fishing will also be allowed to continue after a directed fishery is closed, unless otherwise specified by the Council, or an ACL is anticipated to be exceeded (Section 5.2). If the estimated incidental catch portion of the HG, ACL, or ACT has been set too high, resulting in the probability of not attaining the target harvest level by the end of the fishing season, the remaining incidental catch portion may be allocated to the directed fishery through the "routine" management procedures. This reallocation of the remaining incidental catch portion of the HG to the directed fishery is not likely to be necessary unless substantial errors are discovered in calculations or estimates.

5.2 Minor directed CPS fisheries

A very small sector of the CPS fishery harvests minor amounts of CPS not as part of the primary commercial directed fishery. This component of the fishery typically sells catch as specialty dead bait to recreational and commercial fisheries, or for human consumption to restaurants and the public. Total landings from this sector typically make up less than one percent of the total landings of any particular CPS stock. These operations do not fall under standard incidental landing exemptions and do not meet the incidental landing allowances above when the directed fishery is closed. Setting minor directed harvest limits when other directed fishing has been closed, and managing this harvest under the ACL similar to other harvests allowed after the closure (e.g., live bait and incidental) allows these very small catches to continue under certain scenarios when this catch would otherwise be precluded, such as the Pacific sardine biomass dropping below the CUTOFF value, or when the directed fishery allocation for the year or a fishing period has been reached.

Minor directed fishing will be allowed to continue after a directed fishery is closed, unless otherwise specified, or an ACL is anticipated to be exceeded. The default allowance for minor directed fishing is that no vessel or person may land more than one mt per day and vessels may not make more than one trip per day. Minor directed fishing will not be allowed after the ACL is exceeded or is projected to be exceeded.

5.2 5.3 Seasonal Allocation for the Directed Pacific Sardine Fishery

The non-tribal share of the Pacific sardine HG is allocated coastwide on a seasonal basis as follows:

1. 35 percent of the HG to be allocated coastwide on January 1.
2. 40 percent of the HG, plus any portion not harvested from the initial allocation, to be reallocated coastwide on July 1.
3. On September 15 the remaining 25 percent of the HG, plus any portion not harvested from earlier allocations, to be reallocated coastwide.

PFMC
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