The Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT) and the Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel (CPSAS) met via conference call on February 28, 2011, and received an overview from Mr. Tom Jagielo on the West Coast Aerial Sardine Survey (NWSS) application for an exempted fishing permit (EFP). The EFP will allow industry representatives to harvest sardines outside of the 2011 directed fishing periods. The methods for the summer research will be similar to those carried out in 2010. However, the geographic range will be focused on the Pacific Northwest, and will not include any survey work off California. Also, the NWSS will add additional transects and point sets, and may independently collaborate with Canadian researchers. Although not reflected in the Briefing Book, the NWSS will request 2700 metric tons (mt) as part of its EFP, which is 600 mt more than the Briefing Book version.

The CPSAS expresses appreciation to industry for taking the initiative to develop the sardine research program. The CPSAS fully supports the summer survey, as described in the EFP proposal, and recommends the Council approve the proposal for public review. The CPSAS also supports the request for an additional 600 mt, bringing the total EFP request to 2700 mt.

PFMC
03/05/11