

COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON FISHERY
MANAGEMENT PLAN (FMP) AMENDMENT 13 – ANNUAL CATCH LIMITS AND
ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES

The Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT) met June 13-14, 2010 to review Amendment 13 for the CPS Fishery Management Plan (FMP) and to discuss this topic with the Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel (CPSAS). The CPSMT reviewed Agenda Item F.2.a, Attachment 1. Representatives of the CPSMT also met with the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) on June 12, 2010 and presented the analyses related to Amendment 13 and scientific uncertainty buffers.

All alternatives are listed below. **The CPSMT recommends the alternative that is in bold type for each decision. The complete list of CPSMT recommended alternatives is compiled in Table 1.**

STOCK CLASSIFICATION CONSIDERATIONS

Alternative 1, All species currently in the CPS FMP, including krill are included “in the fishery” in their existing category and no EC species are established.

- Rationale: The CPSMT examined the criteria for designating ecosystem component (EC) species specified in the National Standard 1 (NS1) guidelines § 600.310 d.5.(i-iii) and does not believe designation of EC species under the CPS FMP is necessary at this time. The CPSMT analysis found that:
 1. Incidental catch and bycatch in CPS fisheries is dominated by other CPS and bycatch/incidental catch of non-CPS is extremely low.
 2. Monitoring incidental catch and bycatch already occurs in CPS fisheries through sampling and logbook programs, and this information will continue to be reported in the Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE). Therefore adding EC species for the purposes of ‘data collection’ is not necessary.
 3. Krill are currently “in the fishery” as a prohibited species in the CPS FMP. Current management for krill is the best mechanism to maintain prohibited status.
 4. If the Council identifies a need to monitor forage species, the CPSMT suggests that the Council’s developing Ecosystem FMP may be a more appropriate framework for monitoring and evaluating forage and predator species and their respective roles in the management of all Council-managed fisheries.

Alternative 2, Preliminary Preferred Alternative – All species currently in the actively managed and monitored species categories of the CPS FMP are “in the fishery” and krill are reclassified as an EC species.

Alternative 3, Add additional forage and/or bycatch species to the CPS FMP as EC species. (This alternative can be eliminated or coupled with Alternative 1 or 2 above).

STATUS DETERMINATION CRITERIA (SDC) CONSIDERATIONS

Alternative 1, No Action Alternative – Maintain existing SDCs for CPS FMP stocks.

Alternative 2, Preliminary Preferred Alternative – Maintain existing SDCs for CPS FMP stocks and develop an MSY proxy for the Northern subpopulation of Northern anchovy.

- Rationale: CPSMT notes that there is no new information at this time to warrant a change to the current SDCs. When additional science becomes available, then updates to the SDCs may occur through the annual specification process.

Regarding the northern subpopulation of northern anchovy, the CPSMT is working on a stock specific maximum sustainable yield (MSY) proxy, which will be based on available data on biomass estimates, catch, and stock productivity. The MSY proxy for the northern subpopulation of northern anchovy will be presented at the November Council meeting in time for the annual specification cycle and implementation of ACLs for the 2011 fishing year.

ACTIVELY MANAGED SPECIES

Alternative 1, No Action Alternative – Maintain the existing harvest control rules to specify the new management reference points.

Overfishing Definition	(BIOMASS - CUTOFF) * FRACTION * DISTRIBUTION
ABC	
HG	

Alternative 2, Modify existing harvest policy to specify the new management reference points with no additional buffering for scientific uncertainty.

OFL	BIOMASS * FMSY * DISTRIBUTION
ABC	BIOMASS * FMSY * DISTRIBUTION
HG	(BIOMASS - CUTOFF) * FRACTION * DISTRIBUTION.
ACL	EQUAL TO HG OR ABC, WHICHEVER VALUE IS LESS

Alternative 3, Scientific Uncertainty Buffer – Modify the existing harvest control rules to include a buffer or reduction in ABC relative to OFL to account for scientific uncertainty.

OFL	BIOMASS * FMSY * DISTRIBUTION
ABC	BIOMASS * BUFFER * FMSY * DISTRIBUTION
ACL	LESS THAN OR EQUAL TO ABC
HG	(BIOMASS - CUTOFF) * FRACTION * DISTRIBUTION.
ACT	EQUAL TO HG OR ACL, WHICHEVER VALUE IS LESS

- Rationale: The CPSMT has completed extensive analyses for these alternatives. Our preferred alternative is consistent with: 1) guidance from the SSC, and 2) the Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA) guidelines.

The current Harvest Control Rule has both scientific uncertainty and Optimum Yield (OY) considerations built into it and the CPSMT recommends that it be utilized when possible. However, the results of analyses conducted indicate that there are some conditions where P* will have an impact on the annual catch limit for Pacific sardine and Pacific mackerel to ensure that the chance of overfishing meets the NS1 specification.

MONITORED FINFISH AND SQUID SPECIES

Alternative 1, Preliminary Preferred Alternative – Maintain the default harvest control rules as modified to specify the new management reference points. ACLs would be specified for multiple years until such time as the species becomes actively managed or new scientific information becomes available.

OFL	STOCK SPECIFIC MSY PROXY
ABC	OFL * 0.25
ACL	Equal to ABC or reduced by OY considerations.

- Rationale: The CPSMT agrees with the SSC recommendation that Alternative 1 should be regarded as $ABC = OFL * Buffer$, with $Buffer = 0.25$ serving as the best current value for scientific uncertainty. This value may be updated as additional analyses become available. Annual catch limits (ACLs) are not needed for market squid because of their short lifespan, < 1yr.

Alternative 2 – Scientific Uncertainty Buffer - Modify the existing harvest control rules to include a buffer or reduction in acceptable biological catch (ABC) relative to overfishing limits (OFL) to account for scientific uncertainty. This reduction would be in addition to the precautions built into the default control rule. In practice either a BUFFER recommended by the SSC could be added to the ABC control rule as shown below, or a greater than 75 percent reduction from OFL could be instituted. ACLs would be specified for multiple years until such time as the species becomes actively managed or new scientific information becomes available.

OFL	STOCK SPECIFIC MSY PROXY
ABC	OFL * 0.25 * BUFFER
ACL	Equal to ABC or reduced by OY considerations.

SECTOR-SPECIFIC ACLs

Alternative 1, No Action Alternative – No sector-specific ACLs.

Alternative 2, Assign a sector-specific ACL to exempted fishing permit (EFP) research activities.

Alternative 3, Assign a sector-specific ACL for the live bait fishery.

Alternative 4, Preferred Alternative – Add sector-specific ACLs to the FMP framework as a management tool and assess their applicability on an annual basis.

- Rationale: This alternative would provide the Council with maximum flexibility to consider sector-specific ACLs on an annual basis.

ACT AND AM ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1, No Action Alternative – No annual catch targets (ACTs) and accountability measures (AMs).

Alternative 2, Develop ACTs and AMs only for actively managed stocks.

Alternative 3, Preferred Alternative – Develop ACTs and AMs for actively managed and monitored stocks, as needed.

- Rationale: The rationale for recommending this alternative is the same as for Sector-Specific ACLs, to allow the Council with maximum flexibility on an annual basis. The intent of both these alternatives is to prevent overfishing regardless of the mechanism(s) chosen (sector-specific ACL, AMs, or ACTs, or a combination thereof).

Table 1. Summary of CPSMT Recommended Alternatives

Topic	Alternative	Description
Stock Classification	1	CPS species and krill remain in the fishery; no EC species
Status Determination Criteria	2	Maintain existing SDCs for CPS FMP stocks and develop an MSY proxy for the Northern subpopulation of Northern anchovy.
Actively Managed Species	3	Modify the existing harvest control rules to include a buffer or reduction in ABC relative to OFL to account for scientific uncertainty.
Monitored Species	1	Maintain the default harvest control rules as modified to specify the new management reference points.
Sector-Specific ACLs	4	Add sector-specific ACLs to the FMP framework as a management tool and assess their applicability on an annual basis.
ACT and AMs	3	Develop ACTs and AMs for actively managed and monitored stocks, as needed.

PFMC
06/15/10