

COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON
UNMANAGED FORAGE FISH PROTECTION INITIATIVE

The Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT) and the Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Panel (CPSAS) jointly received a briefing by Mr. Mike Burner concerning the proposed Coastal Pelagic Species Fishery Management Plan (CPS FMP) amendment language on forage fish.

The Ecosystem Workgroup report presents three alternatives for Council consideration. The CPSMT recommends Alternative 2 (preferred) which prevents future fisheries from developing without scientific information on harvest sustainability and potential ecological effects while still allowing for limited amount of incidental take. Given the Council's intent of allowing current amounts of incidental catch to continue, the CPSMT recommends the Council not set limits on these ecosystem component (EC) species.

The CPSMT recommends the following edits to the language in section 5.1.7, Incidental Catch Allowance for Shared EC Species (page 70 of the EWG Report, Agenda Item H.1.a, Attachment 1):

~~As allowed for krill, Shared EC Species could continue to be taken incidentally without violating Federal regulations, unless regulated or restricted for other purposes, such as with bycatch minimization regulations for eulachon recovery. The targeting, harvest and transshipment of Shared EC is prohibited. These actions would fully achieve the objectives of the CPS SMP to the extent practicable, but would not account for environmental conditions and the responses of Shared EC Species and other resources to changes in environmental conditions. This prohibition recognizes that de minimis or trace amounts of Shared EC Species may be retained by fishermen while targeting other species; such inadvertent action is not intended to be the subject of this prohibition.~~