

COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON FISHERY
MANAGEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT 13 – ANNUAL CATCH LIMITS AND
ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES

The Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel (Subpanel) heard a presentation from Mr. Mike Burner on Amendment 13 to the Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS) Fishery Management Plan (FMP): Measures for Integrating New Provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and National Standard 1 Guidelines into Coastal Pelagic Species Management.

The Subpanel engaged in extensive internal discussion and discussions with the CPS Management Team (CPSMT) regarding technical aspects and implications of various options. Dr. Kevin Hill provided an explanation for the proposed P* policy alternative.

The Subpanel recommends the following:

2.1 Summary Stock Classifications

Regarding the addition of forage species not currently in the CPS FMP, the Subpanel believes the CCS Ecosystem FMP is the appropriate place to include these species. The Subpanel agrees these species should be monitored to inform and improve ecosystem-based management.

2.2.1 Status Determination Criteria Alternatives

The Subpanel concurs with the CPSMT recommendation to support Alternative 2.

2.3 Overfishing Levels, ABC, and ACLs

The Subpanel supports Alternative 1 for Pacific sardine as a preliminary preferred alternative for analysis at this time. The Subpanel expressed grave concern that information to fully understand and make recommendations on any alternative regarding Pacific sardine management is not yet available, and awaits final SSC and CPSMT analyses. As expressed in past statements, the Subpanel believes strongly that sufficient precaution is already incorporated into the Pacific sardine HCL.

The Subpanel is interested in receiving more specific information if a proposed Alternative 3 is developed: i.e. an additional buffer is unnecessary under warmer water temperatures, but an additional buffer to the Pacific sardine harvest control rule would apply in colder-water periods.

The Subpanel reiterates the critical importance of more comprehensive research to understand the full extent of the Pacific sardine population, and urges the Council to continue supporting the industry-sponsored surveys and also to encourage National Marine Fisheries Service to increase funding for Pacific sardine research, as well as other CPS species.

Regarding Pacific mackerel, the Subpanel supports Alternative 2.

2.3.2 Monitored Species

The Subpanel supports Alternative 1 in light of the low harvest levels on CPS finfish.

2.3.3 Sector-specific ACLs

The Subpanel discussed at length how to account for mortality in the live bait fishery. The Subpanel acknowledged the importance of the live bait fishery and supports an outcome that preserves optimum fishing opportunity. To ensure optimum fishing opportunity, the Subpanel supports dedicating a portion of the ACL for live bait.

Regarding a sector-specific ACL for EFP research, the Subpanel believes this would be applied as needed.

2.4.4 Summary of ACT and AM Alternatives

The Subpanel supports Alternative 2 – Develop ACTs only for actively managed stocks. Under this option, the Subpanel agrees that setting aside a portion of the Pacific mackerel and Pacific sardine ACTs for incidental harvest in other CPS fisheries should be continued as is done currently.

PFMC
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