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 on March 7 and 8, 2010 to discuss Amendment 13. The CPSMT reviewed Agenda Item E.4.b, SSC Supplemental Report 1 and Agenda Item H.2.b, Supplemental SSC Report. These documents provided guidance on SSC thinking related to quantifying scientific uncertainty for biomass estimates of Coastal Pelagic Species. The CPSMT considered the alternatives presented in Agenda Item H.2.a (Attachments 1 and 2) and the previously mentioned SSC documents. **The CPSMT recommends the alternatives that are in bold type below.** New language and/or alternatives are shaded gray.

2.1.3 Summary of Stock Classification Alternatives (p. 6 of H.2.a Attachment 1).

Alternative 1 – All species currently in the CPS FMP, including krill are included "in the fishery" in their existing category and no ecosystem component (EC) are established.

***Alternative 2* – 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.**

- ***Rationale*: Krill fit the criteria for EC species under the new National Standard 1 guidelines.**

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).

2.2.1 Summary of Status Determination Criteria Alternatives (p. 7 of H.2.a Attachment 1).

Alternative 1 – Status Quo – Maintain existing Status Determination Criteria (SDCs) for CPS FMP stocks.

***Alternative 2* – Maintain existing SDCs for CPS FMP stocks and develop a maximum sustainable yield (MSY) proxy for the Northern subpopulation of Northern anchovy.**

- ***Rationale:* A preliminary acoustic biomass estimate is available and will be considered for the development of an ABC for this subpopulation.**

2.3.1 Overfishing Limit (OFL), Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC) and Annual Catch Limits (ACL) Considerations for Actively Managed Species (p. 8 of H.2.a, Attachment 1 and p. 2 of H.2.a, Supplemental Attachment 2).

Alternative 1 – Status Quo – Maintain the existing harvest control rules as modified to specify the new management reference points.

OFL	BIOMASS x FRACTION x DISTRIBUTION
ABC	(BIOMASS - CUTOFF) x FRACTION x DISTRIBUTION
ACL	Equal to ABC or reduced by OY considerations.

Alternative 2 **–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. This reduction would be in addition to the precautions built into the FRACTION term in the existing rule. Because the CUTOFF term is intended to address economic and ecological issues (OY considerations) it is proposed as a reduction from ABC to ACL.**

- ***Rationale:*** **Analysis suggests this alternative is appropriate for Pacific mackerel.**

OFL	BIOMASS x FRACTION x DISTRIBUTION
ABC	(BIOMASS x BUFFER) x FRACTION x DISTRIBUTION
ACL	[(BIOMASS x BUFFER)-CUTOFF] x FRACTION x DISTRIBUTION

Alternative 3 **– Scientific Uncertainty Buffer for SARDINE – Modify the existing harvest control rules to include a buffer or reduction in ABC relative to OFL to account for scientific uncertainty. This reduction would be in addition to the precautions built into the FRACTION term in the existing rule. Because the CUTOFF term is intended to address economic and ecological issues (optimum yield [OY] considerations) it is proposed as a reduction from ABC to ACL.**

For sardine, the buffer factor can vary from 1 to the buffer associated with the p* policy. The p* buffer would be implemented at or below the appropriate temperature threshold. See method described on page 22 of Agenda item H.2.a, Attachment 1.

OFL	BIOMASS x FRACTION x DISTRIBUTION
ABC	(BIOMASS x BUFFER*) x FRACTION x DISTRIBUTION
ACL	[(BIOMASS x BUFFER*)-CUTOFF] x FRACTION x DISTRIBUTION. *Where change in buffer from 1 to p* is triggered at or below the appropriate temperature threshold.

- ***Rationale:*** **The CPSMT will conduct further analysis to determine the appropriate temperature threshold value based on recommendations provided by the SSC in Agenda Item H.2.b, Supplemental SSC Report. Initial analysis suggests that the present control rule does not provide adequate buffering in all cases.**

2.3.2 OFL, ABC and ACL Considerations for Monitored Species (p. 2 of H.2.a, Supplemental Attachment 2).

Alternative 1 **– Status Quo – 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. Market squid are also a monitored species under the CPS FMP, but the current MSY proxy for market squid is completely different from the finfish species and uses an escapement method detailed in Section 3. Market squid are exempt from ACLs because of their one-year life cycle (see Table 3.3-1 of H.2.a, Supplemental Attachment 2).**

OFL	STOCK SPECIFIC MSY proxy
ABC	OFL x 0.25
ACL	Equal to ABC or reduced by OY considerations

Alternative 2 – 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. 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 x 0.25 x BUFFER
ACL	Equal to ABC or reduced by OY considerations

3.3.3 Sector-Specific ACLs (p. 36 of H.2.a, Attachment 1).

Alternative 1 **– No sector-specific ACLs.**

- ***Rationale:*** **Exempted fishing permit (EFP) activities and the live bait fishery may be best addressed under annual catch target and accountability measures (AMs) alternatives.**

Alternative 2 – Assign a sector-specific ACL to EFP research activities.

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

3.4 Summary of ACT and AM Alternatives (p. 36 of H.2.a, Attachment 1).

Alternative 1 – No ACTs.

Alternative 2 – Develop ACTs only for actively managed stocks.

***Alternative 3* – Develop ACTs for *some or all* actively managed and monitored stocks.**

- ***Rationale:* ACTs and AMs can accommodate EFP activities and live bait fisheries.**
- ***Rationale:* ACTs and AMs may provide additional management flexibility for monitored species.**

3.5 State and Federal Management of Coastal Pelagic Species (p. 37 of H.2.a, Attachment 1).

***Alternative 1* – Status Quo – All species, including market squid and jack mackerel remain in the CPS FMP and no species is transferred to state management.**

- ***Rationale:* Current management framework is effective.**

Alternative 2 – Remove market squid from the CPS FMP and Federal management and transfer that authority to state management.

Alternative 3 – Remove jack mackerel from the CPS FMP and Federal management and transfer that authority to state management.

PFMC
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