

COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT
ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF A COUNCIL FISHERY ECOSYSTEM PLAN

The Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT) reviewed the Ecosystem Plan Development Team's (EPDT) draft Pacific Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP) (Agenda Item H.2.a, Attachment 1). The CPSMT also reviewed the Council decisions from the June 2011 in which the Council directed the EPDT to develop a list of species not currently included in a Fishery Management Plan, not managed under State authority, and not listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

The CPSMT commends the EPDT on developing a draft FEP. The CPSMT endorses the structure of the document if the FEP will indeed be non-regulatory. In regards to the draft FEP, the schedule outlined in section 1.3 appears to be adequate. The goals and objectives outlined in section 2.0 need to be further developed and should be a high priority for completion. The 'hotsheets' will be beneficial for providing information on the state of the ecosystem and management decisions.

The CPSMT reviewed the 'Preliminary summary of select Lower Trophic Level species' (Agenda Item H.2.a, Attachment 1, Table A-1). The CPSMT appreciates the work done by the EPDT on the list of species, and the CPSMT is willing to work with the EDPT to finalize the list. As stated in the June 2011 CPSMT report, the CPSMT would not exclude the possibility of having the advisory FEP evolve into a regulatory fishery management plan (FMP) that would include management unit species. If a need for resource management is established, then these species should be included in a regulatory plan. In this case, the CPSMT recommends that the species be managed under the appropriate fishery management plan. If no existing FMP is appropriate, then the FEP could transition to a regulatory plan to encompass these species. The CPSMT would appreciate closer coordination with the EPDT and would like to be consulted before any discussions occur in regards to changing the species in the CPS FMP.

PFMC
11/04/11