

COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON MAGNUSON-  
STEVENS ACT (MSA) REAUTHORIZATION PRIORITIES AND OTHER LEGISLATIVE  
ISSUES

The Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel (CPSAS) and Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT) received a joint briefing from Ms. Jennifer Gilden, summarizing some of the Federal legislation currently in Congress. Ms. Gilden also outlined the Magnuson-Stevens Act priorities from Agenda Item I.2.a. Supplemental REVISED Attachment 2, and identified which of the items were prioritized by the Council's Legislative Committee. The CPSAS agrees with all the priorities identified by the Legislative Committee for numbers 1 (and 15), 2, 5, 6, 16, and 17, as contained within Agenda Item I.2.a Supplemental REVISED Attachment 2).

In addition, the CPSAS recommends these additional priorities, which are highly important to CPS fisheries:

#4: Clarify criteria regarding needs of fishing communities.

CPS fisheries are primarily day-boat fisheries, which are the foundation of the socio-economic well-being of numerous fishing communities on the west coast and are fundamental to their infrastructure. Further clarification on how the needs of communities are considered and incorporated into fishery management decisions would benefit CPS-dependent and other fishing communities.

#8: Address rebuilding requirements when environmental conditions may be a predominant factor in a stock's decline. The Magnuson-Stevens Act needs to include flexibility to account for environmental and climatic variation including fluctuations on El Niño, decadal, and climate change / global warming time scales.

#11: Make a consistent distinction between "overfishing" (a measure of fishing rate) and "overfished" (a measure of abundance). This distinction is important when managing highly dynamic stocks, such as CPS.

The CPSAS would appreciate the Council's consideration and inclusion of these additional priorities in its recommendations for development of consensus Council Coordination Committee national priorities.