

COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES PLAN AMENDMENT

Situation: In June 1999, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) disapproved portions of the Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS) Fishery Management Plan (FMP) (Attachment D.3.a.). The specification of optimum yield for market squid was disapproved, because there was no estimate of maximum sustainable yield (MSY). The bycatch provisions were disapproved, because there was no standardized reporting methodology to assess the amount and type of bycatch, and because there was no explanation of whether additional management measures to minimize bycatch and the mortality of unavoidable bycatch are practicable at this time.

At the September 1999 meeting, after reviewing a preliminary analysis presented by the Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT), the Council directed the CPSMT to:

- A) For market squid MSY (1) evaluate thoroughly the MSY alternatives presented in the CPSMT report; and (2) address the recommendations of the Scientific and Statistical Committee, notably use of the default MSY control rule that sets acceptable biological catch (ABC) equal to 25% of the total biomass estimate.
- B) For bycatch in CPS fisheries (1) compile information to determine the extent to which bycatch is or may be a problem; (2) further analyze alternatives to reduce bycatch or minimize mortality of unavoidable bycatch (to the extent practicable); and (3) address concerns relative to the potential for bycatch in the emerging sardine fishery off the coast of Washington.

In preparing its analysis of market squid MSY and bycatch in CPS fisheries, the CPSMT was directed to include draft proposed regulations for Council consideration. The Council also noted the "points of concern" framework in the CPS FMP will be used in considering and recommending responses to NMFS relative to the partial disapproval of the CPS FMP.

The CPSMT met on December 9, 1999 and prepared the attached report (Attachment D.3.b.). The Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel (CPSAS) met on March 7, 2000 to review the CPSMT's recommendations and will be providing a supplemental report (Supplemental Attachment D.3.c.).

Council Action:

- 1. Provide direction to the CPSMT and Council staff for finalizing the plan amendment to the CPS FMP.**

Reference Materials:

1. Letter from NMFS dated June 10, 1999 (Attachment D.3.a.).
2. CPSMT Report (Attachment D.3.b.).
3. CPSAS Report (Supplemental Attachment D.3.c.).

PFMC
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