COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES FINFISH LIMITED ENTRY PERMIT ISSUES:
CAPACITY GOAL AND SQUID PERMIT TRANSFERABILITY

Situation: At the March meeting, the Council heard public comments and recommendations from the Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel (CPSAS) about the limited entry fishery. Most notably, commenters asked for re-consideration of the limited entry permit transferability restrictions (i.e., after December 31, 2000 a permit cannot be transferred to another vessel or another person, but lost vessels may be replaced). The Council directed the Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT) to analyze several issues related to limited entry and permit transferability:

1. Establish a goal for the Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS) finfish fishery (i.e., what should the fishery "look like" in terms of the number of vessels and the amount of capacity).

2. Establish a procedure (with criteria) for issuing new permits after the goal is attained and if the fishery becomes under-utilized.

3. Evaluate the pros and cons of extending the current permit transfer window to allow consideration of the non-transferability of California's market squid permits; under two scenarios, (1) basic extension of the transferability deadline, or (2) extension of transferability contingent on holding a California market squid permit.

4. Develop mechanisms for achieving the goal.

5. Transferability of permits after the goal is achieved; under two scenarios – on achieving goal, (1) all permits (including new permits) are freely transferable, or (2) new permits (i.e., those issued after goal is achieved) would have restricted transferability.

At their April and June meetings, the CPSMT discussed these issues and will present a report to the Council.

Council Action:

1. Provide guidance to the CPSMT about how to proceed with establishing a goal for the CPS limited entry fishery and addressing permit transferability issues.

Reference Materials:

1. Supplemental CPSMT Report F.5.
2. Supplemental CPSAS Report F.5.

PFMC
06/14/00