

COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL STATEMENT ON PACIFIC SARDINE SUBALLOCATION

The Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel (CPSAS) held a lengthy discussion regarding a possible suballocation of Pacific sardine to the states of Oregon and Washington. While the panel does not wish to preclude northern fishermen and processors from developing a productive fishery, members of the CPSAS are divided on how best to proceed with specific management measures in terms of a completely separate northern allocation. Due to time constraints, the CPSAS was unable to identify and/or develop possible allocation options. Some members of the panel believe that fishers in Oregon and Washington should be federally regulated (as opposed to leaving management up to the individual states) since they are fishing off a coast-wide federal quota.

For the year 2001, the majority of the CPSAS recommends suspending the current allocation scheme outlined in Amendment 8 (two-thirds for the area south of 35° N latitude or Pt. Pedras Blancas, California and one-third to the north of Pt Pedras Blancas to the Canadian border). With a harvest guideline of 134,747 metric tons, this allocation would work out to 89,824 metric tons south and 44,912 metric tons north. Instead, the majority of the panel believes that a coast-wide quota of 134,747 metric tons would better serve all participants in the fishery. Based on historic and recent participation, a coast-wide quota will eliminate the possibility of Oregon and Washington fishers precluding Monterey fishers and visa-versa.

The CPSAS puts forth this recommendation for the 2001 fishery only. The CPSAS realizes that a long-term solution must be developed for the fishery and we are ready to work with the CPS Management Team and the Council in order to come up with a sufficient allocation scheme that addresses concerns from all user groups.