

DRAFT SUMMARY MINUTES
Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel
Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team

Pacific Fishery Management Council
National Marine Fisheries Service
Southwest Region
501 W Ocean Blvd., Ste. 4200
Long Beach, CA 90802
May 11, 2001

Members in Attendance

Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel (CPSAS)

Mr. Orlando Amoroso, Purse Seine Owners of San Pedro
Mr. William Beckett, Huck Finn Sportfishing
Mr. Joe Cappuccio, Del Mar Seafoods
Ms. Terry Hoinsky, Fishermen's Union
Mr. Eugene Law, Oregon fisherman
Mr. A. Pierre Marchand, Jr., Jessie's Ilwaco Fish Company
Ms. Heather Munro, Munro Consulting
Ms Karen Reyna, Pacific Ocean Conservation Network
Mr. John Royal, Chair
Mr. Paul Strasser, MCIP Sportfishing

Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT)

Mr. Brian Culver, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Dr. Sam Herrick, National Marine Fisheries Service
Dr. Kevin Hill, California Department of Fish and Game; Chair
Ms. Marci Yaremko, CDFG
Dr. Paul E. Smith, National Marine Fisheries Service

Others in Attendance

Mr. Darrin Bergen, California Department of Fish and Game
Mr. Christopher Fanning, National Marine Fisheries Service
Ms. Leanne Laughlin, California Department of Fish and Game
Mr. Jim Morgan, National Marine Fisheries Service
Mr. Dan Waldeck, Pacific Fishery Management Council
Mr. Stephen Wertz, California Department of Fish and Game

Meeting Summary

Dr. Hill called the meeting to order. Mr. Waldeck opened with introductory comments and summarized the purpose and goals of the meeting.

Dr. Hill presented the 2001 assessment of Pacific mackerel biomass. Dr. Hill noted several items indicative of a downward trend in abundance: decreased landings of Pacific mackerel in the Mexican fishery, fewer age 2 fish in catch-at-age data (weak 1998 year class), and increasing mean weight-at-age. He noted that more baseline data would strengthen the assessment, e.g., recruitment data, and catch-at-age and weight-at-age data from the Mexican fishery.

Per the fishery management plan (FMP) control rule for Pacific mackerel and based on a biomass estimate of 84,090 mt, the recommended harvest guideline is 13,837 mt. This harvest guideline is 33% lower than the 2000-2001 season, but similar to the average yield realized by the fishery since the 1992-1993 season (14,053 mt). Dr. Hill noted the confidence interval on the biomass estimate is approximately +/- 40%.

Both committees discussed ways to acquire more data, it was reinforced that Mexican data and recruitment information would help greatly. It was also noted that more funding for basic research on coastal pelagic species (CPS) stocks is needed. The committees briefly discussed the need for a formal stock assessment review (STAR) panel for the CPS stock assessments. There will be a STAR process in 2002.

Some on the Subpanel noted that Pacific mackerel appeared abundant and available to the fishery. While they do not question the assessment methods, many on the Advisory Subpanel questioned the results of the assessment because of the lack of scientific data and inherent uncertainty. It was stressed that it should be recognized that CPS stocks are volatile, and that fluctuations in abundance are to be expected.

The Subpanel and Management Team next discussed how to conduct the 2001-2002 fishery, and developed recommendations for directed harvest, indirect harvest, and a "mop-up" fishery.

Dr. Hill started the discussion by describing several possible approaches: (1) use all of the HG for a directed fishery; (2) allot a large amount for an initial directed fishery, after amount taken switch to incidental allowance; (3) allot a smaller amount for an initial fishery, switch to an indirect allowance after directed amount taken, and open "mop-up" fishery toward the end of season if adequate HG remains; (4) no directed fishery, HG used as incidental allowance for indirect harvest, possibly season end mop-up fishery.

Mr. Wertz (California Department of Fish and Game) reviewed for the committees landings data from 1996-2000 for the Pacific mackerel fishery. The data indicates that the directed Pacific mackerel fishery is generally timed opposite of the Pacific sardine fishery; May to October, and January to May and August to December, respectively. California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) port sampling data also shows a similar trend.

The Subpanel discussed at length how to use the HG, notably how much should be allotted for the directed fishery and what percentage of incidental harvest would be considered for the indirect fishery.

The CPSAS voted (unanimously) to recommend an initial directed fishery of 6000 mt; after the 6000 mt is harvested, switch to an incidental allowance of 45% and/or 1 mt pure load; the fishery will be reevaluated in March and April to determine if enough HG remains for a directed mop-up fishery.

The CPSMT concurred with the Subpanel recommendation.

A motion was made for the CPSAS to re-state to the Council their desire for a review of the Pacific sardine reallocation process specified in the FMP. That is, to recommend changing the date for reallocation from nine months after the start of the Pacific sardine season to seven months after the start of the season.

After discussion, the motion was withdrawn. Ms. Munro stated she would prepare a background document about the reallocation issue for the CPSAS to consider.

The CPSAS briefly discussed the issue of making market squid an actively managed species under the CPS FMP. It was decided that issue needed more time for discussion, the issue will be included on the agenda of the next CPSAS meeting.

Public Comment: There was no formal public comment. Comments from the public in attendance was taken on an informal basis throughout the meeting and contributed to the development of the recommended plan for conducting the Pacific mackerel fishery.

Adjournment: The joint meeting adjourned at 5:30 P.M., Friday, May 11, 2001.

PFMC
08/02/01