

COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL STATEMENT ON  
PACIFIC SARDINE HARVEST GUIDELINE FOR 2002

The Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel (CPSAS) met in Los Alamitos, California, on October 10 to review the latest stock assessment for Pacific sardine and the proposed harvest guideline of 118,442 metric tons for the 2002 season.

The CPSAS appreciates the work done by the Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT) and supports the proposed 2002 harvest guideline. However, the CPSAS still continues to voice concerns about the scope of the stock assessment; for example, the fishery-dependent data collected in the Washington and Oregon fisheries are not currently incorporated into the assessment. The CPSMT and stock assessment authors assure the CPSAS that these efforts will be considered in future efforts as the current model is refined to include coastwide information. The CPSAS will continue to support any of these efforts as we feel it is imperative to achieve an accurate coast-wide biomass estimate.

Lastly, the CPSAS would like to encourage the state agencies to send representatives to the Tri-National Sardine Forum in San Diego beginning November 29<sup>th</sup>. This is an important meeting that includes needed input from both Mexico and Canada. It is critical that representatives from the northern states are able to participate in the meeting, so they are able to contribute vital regional information.

PFMC  
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