

COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES MANAGEMENT TEAM STATEMENT ON
PACIFIC SARDINE HARVEST GUIDELINE FOR 2002

The Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT) and Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel (CPSAS) recently met to review results from the latest Pacific sardine stock assessment which will be used to set a harvest guideline (HG) for the 2002 season. The CPSMT concurs with the stock assessment team's analyses and recommends that the Council adopt a harvest guideline of 118,442 metric tons (mt) for the upcoming season.

The CPSMT discussed questions related to the temperature component of the harvest control rule and identified a need to reevaluate research areas related to this issue. The CPSMT will discuss this issue at their next scheduled meeting, will develop a work schedule, and can provide the Council with an update at the March meeting.

As communicated by the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC), it is critical that both industry and management bodies actively pursue additional research funds, which will be necessary to improve future assessments of the sardine population off North America.

Finally, the CPSMT concurs with the SSC regarding a revised stock assessment review schedule for sardine and Pacific mackerel for spring 2003.

PFMC
11/01/01