

**DRAFT SUMMARY MINUTES**  
**Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel**

Pacific Fishery Management Council  
Crowne Plaza Hotel  
Drake 1 Room  
1221 Chess Drive  
Foster City, CA 94404  
(650) 570-5700  
June 19 - 20, 2002

**Members in Attendance**

Mr. Orlando Amoroso, Purse Seine Owners of San Pedro  
Mr. Joe Cappuccio, Processing Representative  
Ms. Terry Hoinsky, Fishermen's Union  
Mr. Eugene Law, Oregon fisherman  
Ms. Heather Munro, Munro Consulting  
Mr. Richard Powers, Bodega Bay Sportfishing  
Ms. Karen Reyna, Pacific Ocean Conservation Network  
Mr. John Royal, Chair  
Mr. Paul Strasser, Sportfishing Representative

**Others in Attendance**

Dr. Kevin Hill, Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team  
Mr. Jim Morgan, National Marine Fisheries Service (rapporteur)  
Mr. Doug Obegi, Ocean Conservancy  
Mr. Mike Osmond, World Wildlife Fund  
Ms. Diane Pleschner-Steele, California Wetfish Producers Association  
Mr. Jim Seger, Council Staff  
Mr. Kurt Solomon, Solomon Live Fish  
Mr. Chuck Tracy, Council Staff  
Ms. Marija Vojkovich, California Department of Fish and Game  
Mr. Dan Waldeck, Council Staff

The draft agenda for the Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel (CPSAS) meeting was approved with the addition of bycatch in the squid fishery.

**Meeting Summary**

NMFS Report

Mr. Jim Morgan, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), reported the directed fishery for Pacific mackerel was reopened on April 1, 2002. The fishery had been operating under an incidental allowance of 45% since November 21, 2001. There was a moderate harvest in April and a low harvest in May. As of June 3, approximately 5,000 metric tons (mt) of the 13,837 mt harvest guideline remained.

A question was asked about whether or not the unharvested mackerel is rolled over into the new season. Each season begins on July 1 with a new harvest guideline based on the current biomass assessment and the formula in the fishery management plan (FMP). Unharvested fish are not rolled over into the next season, although total fishing mortality is included in the model when calculating the biomass for the next season's harvest guideline. Therefore, fewer removals in one season will lead to some increase in biomass, all else being equal.

To ensure the requirements of the Administrative Procedure Act are met, NMFS is publishing a proposed and final rule to implement the Pacific mackerel harvest guideline for the 2002/2003 fishing season. In previous years, only a final rule was published. All of the meetings that have normally taken place during review of the biomass and harvest guideline, such as the CPSMT, CPSAS, SSC, and Council, still occur.

### Marine Protected Areas

Mr. Jim Seger reviewed the status of the process regarding marine protected areas (MPA) in Oregon and California. The Council is keeping its advisory bodies informed on MPAs and welcomes any comments that might be of use during the Council's consideration of MPAs in the future as a management tool for specific fisheries. The stated purpose of MPAs is to increase biodiversity and promote sustainable fisheries. The CPSAS recognized the biodiversity aspect of MPAs and recognized that MPAs, such as those proposed for the state waters within the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (CINMS), might be useful to protect a resource like abalone, but questioned their use with regard to coastal pelagic species (CPS) such as Pacific mackerel and Pacific sardine. To measure the impact of MPAs on any species, protections outside of the MPA must be considered in conjunction with the protection afforded by the MPA. In the case of squid, where egg cases are secured on the sea floor during spawning, and during which time the entire fishery takes place; a large MPA could have a substantial economic impact on the CPS fishery. Dr. Kevin Hill summarized the Scientific and Statistical Committee comments on California's MPA proposal and noted the requirements under the California Environmental Quality Act are not the same as those under the National Environmental Quality Act (NEPA). Council proposals for MPAs would have to meet the requirements of NEPA.

The CPSAS prepared a statement on MPAs and recommended that CPSAS members also be included in the Council's policy committee, not just Council members. The CPSAS encouraged caution when moving forward with recommendations to the CINMS process. Social and economic effects to consumptive user groups and a thorough review of all scientific opinion available should be reviewed.

### Bycatch

The recent assessment of bocaccio in the groundfish fishery will lead to strict landings regulations for 2003, including restrictions in nongroundfish fisheries. The squid fishery is one of those fisheries that can have a bycatch of bocaccio, and proposals to prohibit daylight fishing for squid have been presented. The CPS stock assessment and fishery evaluation (SAFE) document indicates that bocaccio in the squid fishery amounts to one-tenth of 1% of the samples, that is, the incidental catches of bocaccio occurred in one-tenth of 1% of the sampled landings. Occurrence includes one or more bocaccio in a sampled load of squid. Information subsequently obtained from the California Department of Fish and Game showed there has been only 2 incidents of bocaccio observed in 2,040 landings of market squid. The squid fishery in Monterey, California this year has been conducted almost entirely during daylight hours. Therefore, the proposed ban on daylight fishing would impose a substantial economic impact. The CPSAS drafted a statement informing the Council of the available information.

### Pacific Mackerel Stock Assessment and Harvest Guideline

Dr. Hill, CPS Management Team (CPSMT) Chair, presented the stock assessment and harvest guideline for the July 1, 2002, through June 30, 2003, fishing season. A history of landings, catch-at-age, mean weight-at-age, and the indices of abundance used in the assessment were reviewed and discussed. Dr. Hill updated the biomass assessment and harvest guideline since it was presented at the May 29, 2002 meeting of the CPSMT by using updated figures on estimated fishing mortality. This resulted in an estimated biomass of 77,892 mt and a harvest guideline of 12,535 mt, which is 1,302 mt lower than the 2001-2002 harvest guideline.

The CPSAS reviewed the 2001-2002 fishery and recommended the 2002-2003 fishery be conducted to minimize the impact of a low mackerel harvest guideline on the sardine fishery. The CPSAS recommended a directed fishery of 9,500 mt, with 3,035 mt held in reserve. Once the directed fishery is closed, up to 40% by weight of Pacific mackerel could be in a landing of other CPS. The CPSAS recommended a review of the status of fishery at the March 2003 Council meeting.

### Juvenile Mackerel Survey

Dr. Hill announced the State of California is planning a juvenile mackerel survey during the period February-March, 2003. This will entail occupying a pattern of stations off the California coast and netting mackerel to obtain size and age composition. Information dating back twenty years is available for comparison. The hope is to obtain an updated measure of recruitment.

#### Sea Surface Temperature and Pacific Sardine

Dr. Hill notified the CPSAS the CPSMT is looking at alternatives to the current method of dealing with the relationship between the calculated harvest guideline and sea surface temperature. The FMP defines a relationship between sea surface temperature and the abundance of sardine. Based on the average temperature of the recent three years, the harvest fraction used to calculate the harvest guideline can vary from 5% to 15%. However, the transition from 15% to 5% is abrupt. There are few years in which the harvest fraction falls between these two values. The 2002 harvest guideline is 118,442 mt (789,611 mt x 15%). If the critical average temperature were reached, the harvest guideline could be cut by 2/3 (789,611 x 5% = 39,481 mt). While it is true that cooler temperatures are unfavorable to sardine and the biomass can be expected to decline, a gradual transition from 15% to 5%, such as in a stepwise reduction, would minimize social and economic impacts.

#### Amendment 10

The CPSAS unanimously supported final adoption of limited entry goal options in Amendment 10, specifically the preferred options regarding maintaining a larger, diverse fleet and the conditions for transferring limited entry permits. The majority of the CPSAS (8 of 9 members) supported the egg escapement threshold of 0.3 for market squid in establishing an MSY proxy for the species. The minority felt that other methods of establishing a proxy for MSY might be better and supported an egg escapement of 0.4, which is the threshold used in the Falkland Islands fishery.

#### Sardine Allocation

The CPSAS took up the issue again of how best to ensure that all participants in the sardine fishery have a fair opportunity to harvest the resource. The current geographic boundary of Pt. Piedras Blancas is viewed as possibly not the best approach, so the CPSAS developed a number of options to consider, as follows:

- Status quo.
- Change allocation line to match the limited entry line at 39° N. latitude.
- Have one coast-wide harvest guideline without an allocation line.
- Change the reallocation date, which is now the end of September.
- Change the season opening date.
- Have three subquotas, which would cover the Pacific Northwest, northern California, and southern California.
- Change the percentage allocation, which currently is 2/3 south and 1/3 north.

Changes to the allocation formula can be accomplished under the points of concern framework in the FMP. The CPSAS will review the various options and make a presentation to the Council at its September meeting. The Council could take final action at its November meeting.

#### Adjournment

The CPSAS adjourned at approximately 4 PM, June 20, 2002.

PFMC  
08/23/02