

Read by
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Exhibit C.3.g
Supplemental CPSAS Report
September 2002

COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON
2003 GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT MEASURES

The Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel (CPSAS) reviewed proposed management measures for the 2003 groundfish fisheries. The CPSAS is generally satisfied that the proposed groundfish management measures presented to the CPSAS on September 6th will not affect CPS fisheries. The CPSAS would like to reiterate the information we provided to the Council in June 2002 (see attached, Exhibit C.8.d, Supplemental CPSAS Report, June 2002).

PFMC
09/10/02

COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL COMMENTS ON
PROPOSED MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR 2003

The Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel reviewed the proposed management recommendations for market squid in 2003, including a prohibition on day-time fishing and no purse seining for squid within 10 fathoms anywhere in the state of California. The HMSAS also reviewed the background paper submitted by Ms. Heather Munro on behalf of the West Coast Seafood Processors's Association that investigates the alleged incidents of bocaccio interaction within the market squid fishery.

The CPSAS does not believe eliminating day-time fishing is a rational recommendation. Currently, 100% of the squid fishing in the Monterey/Moss Landing area occurs during daylight hours - the only time squid are available to the fishery. Eliminating daytime fishing would result in an immediate halt of landings into Monterey causing negative economic and social impacts. Furthermore, there is no economic incentive to land bocaccio, only a disincentive as it renders the squid catch worthless. The percentage of daytime squid fishing in southern California is less, but still a significant amount. There have been no allegations of bocaccio interaction with squid catches in southern California.

The reality of the fishing practice is that fishermen can and want to avoid bocaccio during their fishing trips. Experienced fisherman can identify bocaccio on their echo sounder and avoid them. If a fisherman has not identified the fish and makes a set, he still has the opportunity to let the fish escape once he realizes that the fish are not squid.

The CPSAS is concerned there is no evidence to suggest the recent allegation of interaction with bocaccio is more than a rare occurrence, and the proposed management measures are not based on the best available science.

The information provided by California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) port sampling data demonstrates there has been only one incidence of bocaccio observed in the market squid catch prior to 2002. It occurred on July 9, 2001 in Moss Landing. There were a total of 1,481 landings between October 1998 and September 2001. After that time, CDFG has observed and recorded another 559 landings, of which one incident of bocaccio (a handful) was recorded in Moss Landing as incidental catch. The total number of landings that have been observed is 2,040.

This works out to less than 0.1% occurrence. The CPSAS finds that further restricting the market squid fishery based on the existing data is unjustified. There are already management measures in place that prohibit weekend fishing.

The CPSAS recommends the Council consider the most recent quantitative data that demonstrates the lack of interaction between bocaccio and market squid prior to implementing any further restrictions. The CPSAS believes the data demonstrates that no further restrictions on market squid fishing at this time are warranted. Ongoing monitoring of potential bocaccio interactions should continue through the current port sampling program.

PFMC
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