

COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES MANAGEMENT TEAM STATEMENT ON FISHERY
MANAGEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT--SARDINE ALLOCATION

The Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT) was briefed by National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) about issues raised in the May 18, 2004 letter to Chairman Donald Hansen. In addition to allocation of Pacific sardine, these issues include fishery management plan (FMP) harvest control rules, compatibility between California's proposed market squid FMP and the Council's CPS FMP, market squid overfishing definitions, CPS FMP bycatch provisions and pilot at-sea observer program, CPS essential fish habitat, and five-year review of the CPS FMP. NMFS notes that allocation is a high priority, but urges the Council to consider the full range of potential issues.

The CPSMT understands the Council is presently scheduled to decide on moving forward with an FMP amendment to develop a long-term sardine allocation framework. The CPSMT discussed the tradeoffs of moving forward with an FMP amendment for sardine allocation versus developing a more comprehensive FMP amendment to address allocation and the issues raised by NMFS. The consensus of the CPSMT was to move forward with an FMP amendment to develop a long-term sardine allocation framework.

Information currently available is sufficient to proceed with development of an FMP amendment for sardine allocation. General knowledge of annual migration patterns and economic data from vessels and processors can be used to develop and analyze alternative allocation frameworks. The CPSMT, if directed by the Council, is willing to work with the CPSAS in analysis of alternatives. The CPSMT suggests that scoping and development of allocation alternatives is more appropriately within the purview of the CPSAS.

Thus, if the Council determines that principal development of allocation alternatives is to be performed by the CPSAS, the CPSMT could devote time to fully reviewing the issues raised by NMFS to identify those that need to be addressed through FMP amendment, and if they could be addressed in the short-term or would require more extensive time to complete. This information could be reported to the Council at the September 2004 meeting.

PFMC
05/25/04