

COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON
COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES STAR PANEL REPORT

The Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel (CPSAS) reviewed the draft reports of the coastal pelagic species (CPS) Stock Assessment Review (STAR) Panel. The CPSAS also received a report from Ms. Diane Pleschner-Steele, the CPSAS representative to the STAR Panel. Generally, the CPSAS agrees with the findings of the STAR Panel and recommends the new assessment models be used for the next Pacific sardine and Pacific mackerel assessments.

The CPSAS also agrees with the STAR Panel recommendations for research and data needs. This much needed information includes increased coastwide synoptic research surveys, spotter pilot surveys in southern and northern waters, and access to Mexican and Canadian fishery and research data. Resources should also be dedicated to incorporating samples from the Pacific Northwest fishery into the assessment process. Specific to fishery independent research, the CPSAS strongly agrees with the STAR Panel recommendation for “overall greater collaboration with industry in the collection and analysis process for coastal pelagic species” research.

The CPSAS strongly urges the Council to set as a high priority the need to formally review the harvest guideline formulae for Pacific sardine and Pacific mackerel. For Pacific sardine, moderate decreases in sea surface temperature (SST) could significantly decrease the harvest guideline. The use of SST in the harvest guideline formula should be fully investigated to ensure unwarranted economic impacts on the fishery are prevented.

Finally, the CPSAS once again urges the Council and NMFS to pursue cooperative management arrangements with Mexican fishery management agencies. Reports indicate significant expansion of Mexican fisheries in recent years. Expansion of fisheries on shared CPS stocks needs to be fully accounted for, and where appropriate, Mexico should be encouraged to limit fishery expansion so as to avoid compromising Pacific coast CPS stocks, i.e., overfishing.

The CPSAS is encouraged to hear reports of improved cooperation between Mexican and U.S. fishery scientists and fully supports the continuation and expansion of this relationship through the Tri-National Sardine Forum.

PFMC
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