

FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT–SARDINE ALLOCATION

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) will receive an update from the Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel (CPSAS) about development of alternative management scenarios for allocation of the annual Pacific sardine harvest guideline. The Council will also receive a report from the Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT) about their review of several coastal pelagic species (CPS) fishery management plan (FMP)-related issues identified by National Marine Fisheries Service.

At the June 2004 meeting, the Council initiated an amendment (Amendment 11) to the CPS FMP. The primary purpose of the FMP amendment is to address allocation of the annual Pacific sardine harvest guideline. The FMP amendment is intended to ensure optimal utilization of the resource and equitably allocate harvest opportunity. The Council tasked the CPSAS with initial development of a range of allocation alternatives.

To enable implementation by January 2006, final Council action would need to occur no later than the June 2005 Council meeting. The tentative schedule is:

- June 2004 – initiation of FMP amendment
- September 2004 – progress report to Council
- November 2004 – review preliminary alternatives
- December 2004-January 2005 – public hearings on draft alternatives
- March 2005 – preliminary action
- June 2005 – final action

The CPSAS met August 3-4, 2004 to begin development of alternative allocation scenarios. Their report (Agendum I.3.b, CPSAS Report) details progress-to-date.

Secondly, in a May 18, 2004 letter to the Council, NMFS identified a suite of CPS-related issues that NMFS suggested could be addressed through amendment of the CPS FMP. These issues include 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, essential fish habitat, and five-year review of the CPS FMP Environmental Impact Statement. The Council directed the CPSMT to formally review the CPS FMP issues raised by NMFS to identify issues that could be addressed through amendment of the CPS FMP and if the issues could be addressed in the short-term or would require more extensive time to complete.

The CPSMT met August 5, 2004 to formally review the FMP-related issues identified by NMFS. Their report (Agendum I.3.b, CPSMT Report) details their findings and recommendations.

Council Task:

Council guidance on development of an FMP amendment.

Reference Materials:

1. Agendum I.3.a, Attachment 1: May 18, 2004 NMFS letter.
2. Agendum I.3.b, CPSAS Report.
3. Agendum I.3.b, CPSMT Report.
4. Agendum I.3.c, Public Comment.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agendum Overview
- b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- c. Public Comment
- d. Council Guidance on Development of an FMP Amendment

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08/25/04