

COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON
PACIFIC SARDINE STOCK ASSESSMENT AND HARVEST GUIDELINE FOR 2005

The Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel (CPSAS) met September 29, 2004 in Long Beach, California. At the meeting, the CPSAS heard a presentation from Dr. Ray Conser reviewing the preliminary results from the Pacific sardine stock assessment utilizing the Age-Structured Assessment Program (ASAP) model. The report included the recommended preliminary harvest guideline of 126,977 mt for the 2005 fishery. The CPSAS unanimously agrees the stock assessment is as complete as the best available science and the new ASAP model allows. The CPSAS supports the recommended preliminary harvest guideline, which is based on the harvest formula, defined in the Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS) Fishery Management Plan (FMP).

The CPSAS continues to support the need for coast wide synoptic surveys of the sardine resource. The CPSAS recommends the Council encourage National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to continue to fund comprehensive CPS research, including the survey off the Pacific Northwest and explore a possibility to encourage similar surveys in Canada and Mexico.

The CPSAS continues to believe that coordinated international management of CPS fisheries is needed. Moreover, the CPSAS also agrees that inclusion of complete Mexican catch statistics is vital to the CPS assessment process.

As described by Dr. Conser, the Tri-National Sardine Forum has been a very positive experience. The CPSAS recommends the Council continue their involvement in the Sardine Forum. As noted by Dr. Conser, the Sardine Forum provides a means for scientists from U.S. and Mexico to collaborate informally. The CPSAS thanks the stock assessment team for their informal efforts to obtain Mexican fishery information. However, the CPSAS continues to strongly recommend that formal cooperative management and data sharing arrangements are necessary. Thus, the CPSAS recommends the Council continue to vigorously engage the U.S. Department of State in seeking better cooperation from the Mexican government.

PFMC
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