

COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON
SARDINE ASSESSMENT AND HARVEST GUIDELINE

The Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel (CPSAS) met October 6, 2005 in La Jolla, California. At the meeting, the CPSAS heard a presentation from Dr. Kevin Hill 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 (HG) of 118,937 mt for the 2006 fishery. The CPSAS unanimously agrees the stock assessment represents the best available science at this time. The CPSAS supports the recommended preliminary HG, which is based on the harvest formula, defined in the Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS) Fishery Management Plan (FMP). However, the CPSAS voiced unanimous and strong concern that research on Pacific Northwest (PNW) sardine has not been adequately incorporated in the model to date. Furthermore, additional research is needed to evaluate the migration rates, spawning contribution, and relationship of PNW sardine to the spawning biomass as a whole.

The CPSAS is encouraged about plans for a synoptic surveys of the sardine resource in April 2006. The CPSAS recommends that data collected during research surveys in the PNW be analyzed and included in the assessment model for the next year's stock assessment. The CPSAS recommends further that a spotter pilot program similar to the California program be included in the PNW in future years. The PNW industry has offered to collaborate to implement this program.

The CPSAS recommends the Council encourage National Marine Fisheries Service to continue to fund comprehensive annual CPS research, including the survey off the PNW and explore a possibility to encourage similar surveys in Canada and Mexico.

The CPSAS continues to strongly believe that coordinated international management of CPS fisheries is essential to avoid the potential for coastwide overfishing. Moreover, the CPSAS also agrees that inclusion of complete Mexican catch statistics is vital to the CPS assessment process.

PFMC
10/14/05