

## COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON PACIFIC SARDINE STOCK ASSESSMENT AND HARVEST GUIDELINE FOR 2006

The Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT) met October 5, 2005 in La Jolla, California and received a presentation from Dr. Kevin Hill on results from the latest Pacific sardine stock assessment, which will be used to set a harvest guideline (HG) for the 2006 season. The report included the recommended preliminary HG of 118,937 mt for the 2006 fishery. The CPSMT agrees the stock assessment is as complete as the best available science and the new Age-Structured Assessment Program (ASAP) model allows. The CPSMT supports the recommended preliminary HG, which is based on the harvest formula, defined in the Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS) Fishery Management Plan (FMP). The HG of 118,937 mt is 13% below the 2005 HG but 22,049 mt above the peak U.S. harvest in 2002.

The CPSMT was encouraged by reports from National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Southwest Fisheries Science Center that a coastwide Pacific sardine survey is planned for April of 2006. The CPSMT notes that the results of this survey could improve Pacific sardine stock assessments in the future, particularly if repeated over several years. The CPSMT noted that existing data from surveys in the Pacific Northwest in recent years are still unprocessed and not available for use in assessment efforts.

The CPSMT reviewed recent landings of Pacific sardine in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico and reports that while U.S. fisheries have remained below the established HGs, at the international level, the Pacific sardine HG has been exceeded in recent years. The CPSMT notes informal international collaboration is occurring, but recommends the Council and NMFS continue to pursue cooperative arrangements with Mexican fishery management agencies to establish formal government-to-government arrangements.

PFMC  
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