

COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON UPDATE AND COMMUNICATION OF RESEARCH AND DATA NEEDS

The Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel (CPSAS) reviewed the Coastal Pelagic Species Fishery Management Plan chapter of the draft 2008 Research and Data Needs Document. Mr. Mike Burner summarized the May 12, 2008 research needs discussion of the Scientific and Statistical Committee's Coastal Pelagic Species Subpanel (SSC Subpanel) and Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT). The CPSAS concurs with the following draft priorities identified by the SSC and CPSMT (listed here in no order of priority):

- Timely receipt of catch and biological information from Mexico.
- Development of additional indices of abundance for CPS.
- Development of consistent and standardized ageing protocol.
- Review of harvest control rules for CPS.

Of these four priorities, the CPSAS ranks as highest, the development of alternative indices for assessing Pacific sardine population abundance. It is critical to the economic viability of the entire sardine industry.

Specifically, the CPSAS strongly recommends that the Council support and rank as the highest research priority, the development of a collaborative aerial spotter and acoustic survey methodology. This presently is being funded and sponsored entirely by the Pacific Northwest sardine industry. The CPSAS further asks the Council to promote the importance of increasing NOAA's cooperative research funding for west coast fisheries and California Current Ecosystem research with the stated goal of obtaining Federal funds to assist in this important aerial/acoustic research program.

Additionally, the CPSAS recommends that the Council support as high priority the review of the harvest control rule for sardine including the evaluation of the relevance of three-year mean sea surface temperature used to determine the harvest rate fraction.

PFMC
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