

COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON AN EXEMPTED
FISHING PERMIT (EFP) FOR SARDINE RESEARCH

The Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT) reviewed a draft exempted fishing permit (EFP) proposal submitted by Northwest Sardine Survey, LLC at its February 10-11, 2009 meeting in La Jolla, California. A revised proposal from Northwest Sardine Survey, LLC (Agenda Item C.2.a, Attachment 1) and a proposal submitted by the California Wetfish Produces Association (Agenda Item C.2.a, Attachment 2) were submitted for the March 2009 briefing book and were unavailable for CPSMT review in February. The CPSMT has repeatedly recommended that additional fishery-independent indices of Pacific sardine abundance be developed to achieve this goal. The CPSMT endorses the effort by the coastwide sardine fishing industry to conduct a cooperative sardine survey to provide sound scientific data for inclusion in the stock assessments for Pacific sardine. However, the CPSMT stresses that such a survey should be well coordinated, synoptic in coverage, and repeatable on a systematic basis. It is imperative that a rigorous data collection plan be in place at the onset of a new survey-based time series that is intended to be included as relative index of abundance in stock assessment modeling efforts.

The CPSMT recommends the development of a detailed sampling design and area coverage estimate that utilizes the 1,200 mt research set-aside with the goal of providing the most extensive geographic coverage and ultimately, statistically sound results for future management. The sampling design should be prepared for review by the Stock Assessment Review Panel in May 2009 and the Scientific and Statistical Committee in June. To benefit both public and scientific review of an EFP proposal, the CPSMT recommends that representatives of the Pacific sardine industry provide a single proposal as soon as feasible for publication on the Council website. The proposal should include: a list of the principal and cooperating investigators and a clear definition of their roles, a detailed sampling design, estimates of geographic coverage with sample sizes, a description of the vessels that will potentially participate in the survey, and a detailed budget.

PFMC
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