

COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON SURVEY
METHODOLOGY REVIEW AND EXEMPTED FISHING PERMIT (EFP)

The Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT) met June 15, 2009 to review an exempted fishing permit (EFP) application and detailed survey methodology and sampling design developed by the Northwest Sardine Survey, LLC in conjunction with the California Wetfish Producers Association. The EFP application was submitted for the industry to utilize 2,400 mt of the sardine harvest guideline (HG) that would be set aside for research. The CPSMT has repeatedly recommended that additional fishery-independent indices of Pacific sardine abundance be developed. To achieve this goal, the CPSMT approves the survey methodology and sampling design, and endorses the request by the coastwide sardine fishing industry for an EFP to conduct a cooperative sardine survey to collect sound scientific data for inclusion in the stock assessments for Pacific sardine. The CPSMT stresses the importance of developing a comprehensive, repeatable, synoptic survey, as indices with long time series tend to be most informative. The CPSMT further endorses increasing the research set-aside from 1,200 mt to 2,400 mt in order to provide adequate sample sizes and the greatest geographic coverage.

The Enforcement Consultants met with CPSMT to address specific needs associated with EFP enforcement concerns. The CPSMT discussed these concerns and supports their position.

The CPSMT recognizes the value of the EFP and supports this research, but prefers that all conditions adopted in the 2009 permit do not set precedence for exempted fishery permits that may be adopted in the future. There may be a need to adapt research needs in the future based on information and experience gained during the 2009 exempted permit fishery.

The CPSMT concurs with the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) and the Stock Assessment Review (STAR) Panel that the aerial survey has the potential of improving sardine stock assessments. However, the use of data produced from these surveys should be fully evaluated by the STAR Panel in September and the SSC and Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Bodies in November.

PFMC
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