

COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON UNMANAGED FORAGE FISH PROTECTION

The Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT) reviewed draft Council Operating Procedure 24 (COP 24) and draft fishery management plan (FMP) omnibus language (Agenda Item E.4.b, Attachment 1), and continues to recommend that jacksmelt remain in the CPS FMP as an Ecosystem Component (EC) species. We also reiterate our support for the Council Alternative 2 (the preferred alternative) and adoption of the draft COP 24.

Retaining jacksmelt as an EC species in the CPS FMP and adding the proposed list of Shared EC species to the CPS FMP (and other Council FMPs) will:

- Maintain the original purpose for designating jacksmelt as an EC species in the CPS FMP, as a species currently encountered in CPS fisheries and occasionally landed;
- Minimize the volume of editing required to update the CPS FMP; and
- Prohibit development of a new non-tribal commercial fishery targeting jacksmelt (as well as all silversides), except as provided by the draft COP 24.

The CPSMT notes that by accepting its recommendation to keep jacksmelt as a CPS FMP EC species as well as in the Shared EC category, the draft amendatory language would need to be changed to reflect the initial proposed language (September 2014 Agenda Item H.1.a Attachment 1).

Finally, the CPSMT again recommends the Council not set limits on EC species following the Council's expressed intent to not disrupt existing fisheries.