

## COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON ANCHOVY GENERAL STATUS OVERVIEW

The Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT), with the Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel (CPSAS), received a report by Mr. Dale Sweetnam from National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Southwest Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC) summarizing current information on coastal pelagic species with an emphasis on northern anchovy (Agenda Item H.3.a). The report, which included some preliminary 2015 survey results, indicated that although northern anchovy abundance has declined in recent years, the current young of the year (YOY) are showing very high abundance in juvenile rockfish surveys off California. Ichthyoplankton surveys along the Newport Hydrographic (NH) line off Oregon's coast also found unusually high abundance of larval anchovy. The Daily Egg Production Method (DEPM) surveys showed few anchovy eggs in 2015, but the anomalous ocean conditions of the last couple years appear to be altering the location and timing of anchovy spawning, driving some further north to the NH line.

The CPSMT considered concerns raised in public comment regarding the status of central subpopulation of anchovy and the preliminary data from the 2015 surveys, and concluded that no immediate action is warranted.

The acceptable biological catch (ABC)/annual catch limit (ACL) (25,000 mt) for the central subpopulation of northern anchovy is 25 percent of the overfishing limit (100,000 mt). The CPSMT presented data in June (Agenda Item G.3.a) that showed that catch in the last ten years has been well below the ABC/ACL level and notes that 2015 landings of central subpopulation anchovy remain well below the ABC/ACL.

The CPS Fishery Management Plan (FMP) does not specify periodic assessments for stocks experiencing low levels of harvest (i.e. monitored stocks), thus assessments have not been performed for the central subpopulation of northern anchovies. However, the CPSMT recommends prioritizing the central subpopulation of northern anchovy assessment, which may necessitate holding a workshop on data-limited methodology.

PFMC  
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