

COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON ARTISANAL FISHERY MANAGEMENT ISSUE SCOPING

In response to a request from the Council, the Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT) considered the issue of accommodating the continued operation of small-scale CPS landings even when a directed fishery has been closed. These landings do not represent a new fishing sector, and therefore use of the term “artisanal” is a misnomer. The CPSMT report in the advance September briefing book (Agenda Item E.4.a, CPSMT Report) provides general information and possible Fishery Management Plan pathways that could be used to accommodate such a fishery.

In general terms, the CPSMT envisions this action would accommodate a sector of the CPS fishery that would have a very minor impact on the other sectors (i.e., directed commercial, incidental, live bait, etc.) of the CPS fishery. The CPSMT examined sardine landings that would fall in this small-scale, *de minimis* category. For targeted sardine landings of less than one metric ton for years 2005-2015, the highest landing year had 134 landings by 12 vessels, totaling 50 mt of sardines. For this period, the average landings that would fall in this category were about 20 mt per year. The number of participants coastwide ranged between about 5 and 12 per year. Although allowed landings would be coast-wide, data for this type of landing are only available from California and Oregon.

The Council is scheduled to establish the scope of the action at this meeting, and the CPSMT offers the following suggestions on scope:

- All managed CPS finfish should be included (two stocks of northern anchovy, Pacific mackerel, Pacific sardine, and jack mackerel)
- No additional permits should be required
- Landing limits should be expressed in terms of a daily and/or trip limit; limited one metric ton per day/trip or less
- All currently allowed CPS fishing gears should be included

Regarding schedule, the CPSMT recommends that the Council should consider alternatives at the November 2016 meeting, and should take final action at the March 2017 meeting. This schedule would allow for implementation of an FMP amendment and Federal regulations to be in place at the start of the 2017-2018 Pacific sardine and Pacific mackerel fishing year.