

LIVE BAIT FISHERY ALLOWANCE AMENDMENT - SCOPING

The coastal pelagic species (CPS) live bait fishery is prevalent in Central and Southern California, and there is some live bait fishing in waters off Oregon and Washington as well. This fishery sector is particularly important to the California charter and sport boat fleet, and some commercial fisheries, which provide substantial economic activity in the region. The CPS Fishery Management Plan (FMP) does not require a limited entry permit for live bait fishing, and all live bait landings are counted as harvest.

Currently, the CPS FMP limits the live bait fishery to 15 percent incidental landings for stocks declared to be overfished. Based on concern that a 15 percent incidental limit would make it difficult to prosecute the live bait fishery, the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) initiated a process to consider changes to the incidental landing allowances for live bait in situations when a CPS stock is in an overfished condition. The Council requested the Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT) to provide background and rationale for the existing incidental landing limit for overfished stocks in the live bait fishery, to bring a proposed Purpose and Need statement to the June Council meeting, and to recommend whether potential changes to Section 5.1.4 should be further considered. The Council is considering a schedule that includes scoping at the June meeting, a range of alternatives and preliminary preferred alternative at the September meeting, and final action at the November 2018 meeting.

At this meeting, the Council is scheduled to consider moving forward with this proposed amendment. If so, the Council could establish the overall scope of the amendment to guide the development of the range of alternatives to be considered at future meetings.

Council Action:

- 1. Review existing FMP provisions and proposed purpose and need statement, and consider a potential amendment.**
- 2. Provide guidance on the scope, purpose and need, and schedule for a potential live bait amendment**

Reference Materials:

Agenda Item F.1.a, CPSMT Report 1: Scoping Document.
Agenda Item F.1.b, Public Comment 1.

Agenda Order:

- F.1 Live Bait Fishery Allowance Amendment - Scoping Kerry Griffin
- Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - Public Comment
 - Council Action:** Consider a Fishery Management Plan Amendment for the Live Bait Fishery Allowance and Adopt a Purpose and Need Statement and Process Schedule, as Appropriate