

AMENDMENT 17: LIVE BAIT FISHERY ALLOWANCE – FINAL ACTION

At its June 2018 meeting, the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) initiated a fishery management plan (FMP) amendment process to address take in the live bait fishery when a Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS) stock is overfished. At its September 2018 meeting, the Council adopted a range of alternatives for consideration, and at this (November) meeting the Council will adopt a final preferred alternative (FPA). Currently, the CPS FMP limits the live bait fishery to 15 percent incidental landings for stocks that are overfished. However, the live bait fishery sector has expressed concern that incidental landing restrictions make it impossible to prosecute a live bait fishery because buyers – mainly the recreational fleet – depend on clean (single species) loads.

At this meeting, the Council will adopt an FPA from the two alternatives described in Agenda Item E.3.a, CPSMT Report 1, and will adopt FMP language changes as necessary. The status quo alternative would maintain the current provision that limits the live bait fishery to 15 percent incidental landings for overfished stocks. Alternative 2 would eliminate that incidental landing restriction and would initiate an FMP amendment process.

Council Action:

- 1. Adopt a Final Preferred Alternative.**
- 2. Adopt FMP language.**
- 3. Provide further guidance as needed.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item E.3.a, CPSMT Report 1.

Agenda Order:

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| E.3 | Amendment 17: Live Bait Fishery Allowance – Final Action | Kerry Griffin |
| a. | Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies | |
| b. | Public Comment | |
| c. | Council Action: Adopt a Final Preferred Alternative and Fishery Management Plan Language | |