

COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON PRELIMINARY  
REVIEW OF NEW 2019 EXEMPTED FISHING PERMITS (EFPs)

The Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT) reviewed two notices of intent to re-apply for exempted fishing permits (EFP) for 2019, from the California Wetfish Producers Association (CWPA) (Agenda Item E.4, Attachment 1) and the West Coast Pelagic Conservation Group (WCPCG) (Agenda Item E.4, Attachment 3). Both express intents to re-apply for exemptions from any potential restrictions on directed fishing for Pacific sardine (sardine) during the 2019-2020 sardine fishing year. The proponents from the CWPA and the WCPCG presented results from the 2018 efforts and rationale for the re-application of the EFPs to the CPSMT and the Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel during a joint meeting.

The CWPA was issued an EFP in 2018 and conducted a collaborative aerial survey as described in their 2018 EFP. The West Coast Pelagic Conservation Group withdrew their application for 2018. The applicants have included their 2018 proposals in the November 2018 briefing book (Agenda Item E.4, Attachments 2 and 4).

The CPSMT recognizes the value of the EFP research proposed by both groups to improve CPS stock assessments by obtaining data that has not been attainable by other means, and commends the applicants on their continuing efforts to develop and improve methods to measure the biomass and distribution of CPS. The CPSMT supports the applications and recommends adoption of both 2019 proposals for public review.

PFMC  
11/04/18