

## COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON REVIEW OF FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN MANAGEMENT CATEGORIES

The Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel (CPSAS) met jointly with the CPS Management Team (CPSMT) to discuss the CPSMT on review of Fishery Management Plan (FMP) management categories (Agenda Item E.5.a, CPSMT Report 1). The CPSAS thanks the CPSMT for their thoughtful approach to this challenging topic. The report reviewed the origin and purpose of Active and Monitored categories originally set in Amendment 8 of the CPS FMP, and compared those categories with category assignments for groundfish stocks managed under the Groundfish FMP.

The CPSMT report explained that, unlike stocks in the Groundfish FMP, assignment of CPS into the Active or Monitored Management categories is not based solely on data available for stock assessments, but also includes socioeconomic considerations, fishery importance, and ecological factors. The Active designation for sardine and Pacific mackerel in Amendment 8 signified fisheries with significant catch levels that required extensive harvest management procedures, such as annual stock assessments, while the Monitored category was intended for lightly fished species where annual assessments are not necessary.

The CPSMT Report also emphasized that alternative management options are available for stocks in the Monitored category. The Council has discretion to apply different management measures and assessment schedules to all stocks regardless of category, as they did with Pacific mackerel when catch levels declined. The report also stated that the CPSMT does not see a strong reason to undertake the large workload that a full-blown FMP amendment would entail, with corresponding workshops to analyze options, revision of regulations, Council Operating Procedures, and the Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) document to address what is essentially an issue of semantics. The majority of the CPSAS agree.

The CPSAS supports the CPSMT recommendations to:

1. Retain Active and Monitored as management category names
2. Evaluate and potentially develop improved management category descriptions in both the CPS FMP and SAFE
3. Develop a standardized periodic review of all available information on both Active and Monitored stocks
4. Add a new section to the CPS SAFE document that clarifies stock designations and collates the information, utilizing a questionnaire similar to the Annual Review Questions presented in Attachment 1 of the CPSMT report

The CPSAS further suggests that adequate biological sampling should occur for all stocks on a regular schedule, including Monitored stocks.

### Minority Statement

A minority of the CPSAS supports the recommendation of the CPSMT to add a new section to the SAFE document that formalizes an annual review and analysis of available information on CPS

finfish stocks, and further suggests that this proposed new section would be improved by incorporating the SSC's suggestions as described in Supplemental SSC Report 1. However, even with this addition to the SAFE, a minority of the CPSAS notes that the FMP's distinction between Active and Monitored categories poses significant obstacles to management that would remain unaddressed; the minority recommends that the Council expand its review of CPS FMP management categories to consider broader changes to the FMP that address these larger concerns.

The entire CPSAS thanks the Council for consideration of these comments.

PFMC  
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