

COASTAL PELAGIC FISHERIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON 2019 EXEMPTED
FISHING PERMITS (EFP) - FINAL APPROVAL

The Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel (CPSAS) discussed two exempted fishing permit (EFP) proposals to support CPS stock survey research. One is from the California Wetfish Producers Association (CWPA) and has been amended to include survey work off Monterey. The other is the original submission from the West Coast Pelagic Conservation Group (WCPCG) which has been strengthened by adding an onboard Washington state biologist and sampling protocols for collecting biological information. Both collaborative projects are designed to address the need for data to assess CPS biomass inshore of current acoustic trawl method (ATM) surveys, a priority identified in both the 2017 sardine stock assessment review and the 2018 ATM review.

Both the WCPCG and CWPA are working collaboratively with the Southwest Fisheries Science Center; and CWPA is also collaborating with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife in an effort to improve survey data collection, which will lead to better-informed stock assessments and fishery management. The CPSAS urges the Council to approve these EFPs so the proponents may apply to the National Marine Fisheries Service for their EFPs.

PFMC
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