

COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON
LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

The Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel (CPSAS) reviewed and discussed HR 2236, a bill to improve the management of forage fish.

A majority of the CPSAS has serious concerns with the intent and language in this bill. The language removes the proposed legislation from good management practices and violates the original spirit and intent of the Magnuson-Stevens Act to balance conservation with the sustainable usage of our fishery resources. We believe the authors of this bill are misinformed on the present stringent forage fish management measures already in place. This bill is not merely duplicative of current policies and practices of the Pacific Fishery Management Council, it would end historic fishing in many coastal communities.

Fishery management should continue to be based on the best science and best sustainable management practice. It should not be a tool used for political gain that shatters livelihoods and liquidates investments.

Minority Statement

A minority of the CPSAS does not share the concerns of the majority and notes that HR 2236 could present opportunities to improve management of forage species around the country.

PFMC
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