

COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON THE NATIONAL
MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE STRATEGIC PLAN

The Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT) and the Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel (CPSAS) participated in a webinar on August 29, 2019 to review agenda items for the September Council meeting with relevance to CPS. We received a presentation from Scott Burkart on the draft NMFS West Coast Geographic Draft Strategic Plan 2020-2024 (Agenda Item C.1.a, NMFS Report 1). The CPSMT would like to thank Mr. Burkart for an informative presentation on this topic.

The CPSMT is encouraged to see NMFS looking to the future and acknowledging issues faced, challenges to be met, and risks foreseen. The CPSMT is especially concerned about the risks listed and how the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) will be able to balance the workforce requirements, infrastructure needs, and budget constraints. Having ship time on dependable vessels for surveys dedicated to gathering estimates of coastwide CPS abundance and the workforce to gather and process the data collected are critical to managing CPS fisheries in a sustainable manner. In June 2019 the Council heard from Kristen Koch, Director of the Southwest Fisheries Science Center, about shrinking or static budgets and the prospects of reduced availability of ship time in the future. The CPSMT would like to encourage NMFS to do their best to ensure that the resources critical to informing CPS management decisions remain a priority on the West Coast.

PFMC
9/13/2019