

COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON
FUTURE COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA AND WORKLOAD PLANNING

The Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel (CPSAS) offers the following comments on upcoming CPS-related issues:

Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) – Periodic Review

The Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Sub Panel (CPSAS) heard a report on EFH and the review process from Mr. Kerry Griffin. We appreciate the chance to be updated on this topic. We have no comments at this time except to ask that we be further apprised if the review process is activated or enters a development phase for scoping in the future.

Executive Order 13921 – Promoting American Seafood Competitiveness and Economic Growth

The Coastal Pelagic Species Subpanel (CPSAS) has reviewed the recently issued Executive Order (June Informational [Report](#) 7). It is our understanding that full discussion and commentary will be taken up at the September 2020 Council meeting. We are pleased to see a high-level directive that focuses on improving the competitiveness of U.S. seafood. Many of our U.S. fisheries struggle to remain viable. In almost every case, these struggles have led to supply chain and market disruptions that exacerbate the stability of the fishery and the value equation of their products. Examples of supply chain disruptions can be found in the recent COVID-19 pandemic. Red meat and poultry supply chains, arguably the gold standards in supply chains, have lost employees and shut down facilities due to this coronavirus. This has led to empty retail cases, consumers without their normal supply of meat, and ranchers that cannot get their livestock to market. Some seafood processors also have experienced closures due to COVID-19.

Sec. 4. Removing Barriers to American Fishing. (a) The Secretary of Commerce shall request each Regional Fishery Management Council to submit, within 180 days of the date of this order, a prioritized list of recommended actions to reduce burdens on domestic fishing and to increase production within sustainable fisheries, including a proposal for initiating each recommended action within 1 year of the date of this order:

As the Councils have been requested to supply proposals, we recommend that this Council seek the advice of their advisory bodies as to what is working, and what is not. Are there improvements in fishery management that could take into account the state of those businesses in the seafood industry that harvest, process, and market our fisheries resources, to better ensure fulfillment of all Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) requirements? This could help the fishing industry cut costs and remain viable. Fishermen, processors, and marketers all need a greater comprehension of their issues if we are to fulfill the intent of the executive order and meet the MSA mandates for optimum yield and net benefits for our nation.

In September, we hope to offer advice to the Council that we believe can alleviate some of these issues and supply you with material to make your recommendations. If we can collaborate with the Council on fulfillment of this Executive Order, we believe there will be net benefits to all involved and our nation. As importantly, this can be accomplished without endangering our sustainable resource base.

Future Council Meetings

If the Council decides to convene face-to-face Council meetings in September and November 2020, the CPSAS recommends that the Council also provide a virtual meeting alternative, i.e. via webinar, to allow individuals to participate without potential exposure to the coronavirus COVID-19. We request that a virtual meeting option be continued until the threat of COVID-19 is substantially reduced, or a vaccine is available.

PFMC
06/15/20