

COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON THE
CLIMATE AND COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE UPDATE

The Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel (CPSAS) reviewed materials developed for the Fishery Ecosystem Climate and Communities Initiative (CCI) including the 2040 Scenarios for West Coast Fisheries (Agenda Item F.1, Attachment 1, September 2020). The CPSAS compliments the Climate and Communities Core Team (CCCT) members and others involved in conceptualizing possible alternatives to address the known and unknown impacts of future climate change on fisheries. The CCCT report acknowledges that, "*..faced with unpredictable change, it will be essential to make decisions in a more agile and flexible manner.*" We agree with this statement which was a key theme reiterated throughout the two-day scenario development workshop January 22-23, 2020 and highlights the need for more flexibility in the Council management processes.

The 2040 Scenarios document presents four plausible outcomes, based on a varying suite of environmental and policy assumptions. Although actual impacts are unknown at present, one assumption made in virtually all the scenarios predicted a northward shift of fishery stocks, including coastal pelagic species (CPS). This poses serious implications for such fisheries as market squid, which is currently the economic driver of California's wetfish fishery.

We note that the next stage of the scenario planning exercise will involve a series of workshops that identify the implications and actions that follow from the proposed scenarios.

The CPSAS supports the concept of these workshops and the suggestion that a series of virtual workshops be conducted over the late fall /winter in lieu of face-to-face meetings, considering COVID-19 restrictions on public meetings. In addition, it may be easier for fishermen to participate in this meeting format, staged as described, rather than having to give up fishing day(s) to travel afar and attend in person.

We recommend that the Council move forward with this Initiative and approve the CCCT recommended format for the virtual workshops.

PFMC
09/11/20