

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON
PACIFIC SARDINE REBUILDING PLAN-FINAL ACTION

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) received a staff report from Mr. Kerry Griffin, Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) staff; about the rebuilding plan for the northern subpopulation of Pacific sardine (NSP) that was recently declared overfished. Mr. Griffin provided a thorough review of the materials at hand. The GAP also reviewed reports provided by the Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS) Management Team (CPSMT) and Advisory Subpanel (CPSAS).

The GAP's interest in this topic stems from consideration of alternatives in the rebuilding analysis that would have significant economic impacts on groundfish fisheries that catch sardine incidentally – recreational and trawl fisheries. As noted by the CPSMT, alternatives 2 and 3 would have significant economic impact on fisheries that catch sardine incidentally because of the catch restrictions that would be required if these alternatives were implemented. In their report, the CPSAS summarizes some of the potential economic impacts – “The average ex-vessel value of the California squid fishery in 2012-2016 was \$54.7 million. The 2012-2016 ex-vessel value of the Pacific whiting fishery, which also takes sardines incidentally, was \$51.5 million. In addition, the multiplied value of the live bait fishery, whose direct catch landings represent the bulk of the sardine harvest, is an estimated \$1.3 billion.” ([Agenda Item G.1.a, Supplemental CPSAS Report 1, September 2020](#)).

Therefore, the GAP agrees with the CPSMT and recommends the Council adopt Alternative 1 (that is, Status Quo) as its final preferred alternative to rebuild the NSP stock. This is consistent with the recommendation of a majority of the CPSAS and the consensus of the Highly Migratory Species Advisory Subpanel ([Agenda Item G.1.a, Supplemental HMSAS Report 1, September 2020](#)).

PFMC
09/14/20