

COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON COURT ORDERED
RULEMAKING ON HARVEST SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE CENTRAL
SUBPOPULATION OF NORTHERN ANCHOVY

The Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT) received the Proposed Rule: Harvest Specifications for the Central Subpopulation of Northern Anchovy ([Agenda Item H.3, Supplemental Attachment 2](#)) on November 17, 2020 from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) for setting a revised overfishing limit (OFL), acceptable biological catch (ABC), and annual catch limit (ACL) for the Central Subpopulation of northern Anchovy (CSNA).

The CPSMT sees the proposed rule as a sound approach to replacing the vacated OFL, ABC, and ACL. The proposed rule uses four recent survey estimates of stock abundance from 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019 with the previously used fishing mortality rate (E_{MSY}), and maintains the current substantial OFL-ABC buffer (75 percent) with the aim of preventing overfishing. In addition to new reference points for CSNA, the proposed rule proposes two potential additional management measures: a one-time limit of three or four years for the rule to remain in place, and a stock biomass threshold that would trigger a reduction to the ACL. The CPSMT suggests that timelines for revision of the OFL, ABC, and ACL, as well as triggers for making changes are best left to the Council process.

The CPSMT will continue development of a management framework for CSNA and report to the Council in June 2021. In addition, a benchmark stock assessment is scheduled for 2021. Therefore, the rule could remain in place until the Council has better information that merits a revision of these reference points and consideration of additional management measures.

PFMC
11/18/20