

## COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON OPEN COMMENT

The Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel (CPSAS) is extremely supportive of both fisheries surveys and the health of survey crews, and notes that vaccinating survey crews and observers would provide the most complete COVID-19 protection to the West Coast seafood supply chain. In our view, these individuals are essential workers in the food production business and should be placed in that high priority category.

Almost all surveys were cancelled last year, and while it is possible that the mentioned individuals will be vaccinated following the normal processes, there have been delays in the manufacture and distribution chains, and the vaccination schedules are not fixed.

We understand that this is not a role where the Council can take direct action; however, we recommend that the Council urge the National Marine Fisheries Service and state departments of fish and wildlife in supporting vaccination of these essential workers. We believe this may help garner support to ensure that the survey crews and observers are vaccinated with other essential food production workers. This would reduce chances of further disruptions to our data collection and fishing businesses. Scientific field surveys form the foundation of stock assessments for CPS and prosecuting these surveys in 2021 is essential to produce accurate stock assessments. This seems like a goal everyone should be able to support.

PFMC  
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