

COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON EXEMPTED  
FISHING PERMITS FOR 2021-2022 – FINAL ACTION

The Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT) reviewed three proposals for exempted fishing permits (EFP): one from the West Coast Pelagic Conservation Group (WCP) (Agenda Item E.2, Attachment 1), and two from the California Wetfish Producers Association (CWPA) (Agenda Item E.2, Attachments 2 and 3). Both parties are re-applying for exemptions from any potential restrictions on directed fishing for Pacific sardine during the 2021-2022 sardine fishing season. Several members of the CPSMT attended the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) discussion regarding the three EFP applications. The CPSMT agrees with the SSC views on the value of the EFP applications.

The CPSMT recommends the Council endorse all three EFP applications and the amount requested in each EFP. The CPSMT recommended (Agenda Item E.4.a, Supplemental CPSMT Report 1) setting the Annual Catch Target (ACT) close to the total of the average six years of Pacific sardine landings in the various sectors (i.e. live bait, minor directed, etc.) and the total amount requested in the EFPs. Should the Council decide to set a lower Pacific sardine ACT than proposed by the CPSMT, the CPSMT recommends the Council prioritize approval of the full tonnage requests from the WCP collaborative acoustic survey (Agenda Item E.2, Attachment 1) and CWPA aerial survey point set (Agenda Item E.2, Attachment 2) EFPs. The CPSMT does not see the CWPA EFP request to collect biological samples through directed fishing (Agenda Item E.2, Attachment 3) as high of a priority for full tonnage allotment as the other two EFPs.

PFMC  
04/08/21