

COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON
FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN MANAGEMENT CATEGORIES

During the November 16 Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel (CPSAS) webinar, Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT) Chair Lorna Wargo presented a summary of the CPSMT Report on Coastal Pelagic Species Fishery Management Plan (FMP) Management Categories (Agenda Item I.2.a, CPSMT Report 1, November 2021). The CPSAS also reviewed the report and related materials and commends the Management Team and Council staff for their efforts in drafting an administrative amendment to the CPS FMP to address the Council’s request to remove references to “active” and “monitored” categories, but not to revise the manner in which CPS stocks are managed.

Chair Wargo and Council staff clarified that the Management Team approach was to address administrative aspects of the Council’s request. Under the proposed revisions, the Council maintains the ability to make changes and to establish management procedures tailored to each stock **without amending the FMP**. The CPSMT proposed replacing the “active,” “monitored,” and “prohibited” management bins with definitions of those categories, placing all stocks on the table to describe management.

The CPSMT Report explained that under the CPS framework management approach in the FMP, *“it is not necessary to amend the CPS FMP in order to develop or modify harvest control rules or definitions of overfishing.”* The CPS FMP amendment now proposes to include two primary forms of harvest control rules for CPS: the default control rule supplants “monitored” and the general control rule replaces “active”, with new definitions of those rules provided to explain management policies.

The CPSAS supports the Management Team’s overall approach to this administrative FMP amendment, which removes terminology perceived by some to be confusing, while providing the Council the flexibility to make changes and establish management procedures on a stock-by-stock basis.

We suggest that the Management Team explore adding a footnote to the FMP for the purpose of informing the public on where to find additional information on management of the central subpopulation of northern anchovy presented in Council Operating Procedure 9 and the CPS Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation document.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.