

COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON EXEMPTED
FISHING PERMITS FOR 2023-2024—FINAL ACTION

The Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel (CPSAS) discussed requests for two exempted fishing permits (EFP) by the California Wetfish Producers Association (CWPA) in cooperation with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. The collaborative projects intend to address the continuing need for data, including alternative biological sampling and collection by purse seine net, to assess CPS biomass inshore of current National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Acoustic Trawl surveys.

The CWPA is working collaboratively with the National Marine Fisheries Service Southwest Fisheries Science Center in an effort to improve survey data collection that will lead to better-informed stock assessments and fishery management. One survey will focus on confirming biological composition and school size of CPS estimated by acoustics surveys and spotter planes. In addition, the second survey will collect biological data, especially fishery age structure data. Data from the CWPA biological sampling EFP was used in the stock assessment model for the first time since the directed fishery closed in 2015. Approving the two EFPs will allow the continuation of a biological data stream for sardines started in 2018 in California. Therefore, the CPSAS strongly urges the Council to approve the final EFP proposals as submitted.

PFMC
04/03/23