

COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON FISHERY MANAGEMENT
PLAN HOUSEKEEPING- FINAL ACTION

After the Advance Briefing Book deadline, the Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT) discussed two changes proposed in the November 2022 draft that the team was still reviewing for accuracy and completeness. During this discussion, the CPSMT identified new changes which are described below with rationale, and **highlighted in blue** with a clean version of the section found below.

1. With regards to Chapter 4 lines 305-312 ([H.3. Attachment 3, April 2023](#)) in the November public review draft, minor directed fishing was added to clarify that it may be allowed, along with live bait, when the primary directed fishery for sardine is closed. Upon review after November 2022, the CPSMT realized it might be misleading to not also reference the other types of catch that are allowed in this situation, including exempted fishing permits and incidental catch. As such, the section header was changed to be more comprehensive, reference to other types of harvest was added, and language changes were made for flow and readability.

Live Bait and Minor Directed Allowable Harvest between the ABC and CUTOFF

The live bait fishery, ~~which supplies live sardines~~**CPS to recreational and commercial fisheries, and the minor directed fishery, and other fisheries (e.g., exempted fishing permit)** may be allowed to operate when estimated biomass falls below the CUTOFF ~~but above the definition of an overfished stock, which is currently set at 150,000 mt~~ **and other** directed fishing is precluded, ~~but the estimated biomass is still above the definition of an overfished stock,~~ and ~~while live bait and minor directed~~ harvests ~~are~~ not expected to exceed the ACL or ABC. This does not prevent the Council from undertaking any measure authorized under this FMP, including a sector-specific ACL, that may be necessary to manage ~~these fisheries~~ **the live bait fishery** and ~~the~~ sardine stock. The live bait ~~and/or minor directed~~ fishery could, for example, be managed by HG or quota, season, or gear restrictions at any point under the framework management process.

Allowable Harvest between the ABC and CUTOFF

The live bait fishery, the minor directed fishery, and other fisheries (e.g., exempted fishing permit) may be allowed to operate when estimated biomass falls below the CUTOFF but above the definition of an overfished stock, primary directed fishing is precluded, and harvests are not expected to exceed the ACL or ABC. This does not prevent the Council from undertaking any measure authorized under this FMP, including a sector-specific ACL, that may be necessary to manage these fisheries and the sardine stock. The live bait and/or minor directed fishery could, for example, be managed by HG or quota, season, or gear restrictions at any point under the framework management process.

2. With regards to Chapter 4 lines 267-269 ([H.3. Attachment 3, April 2023](#)) the November 2022 draft removed a sentence from the Transboundary Issues section. After review, the team proposes retaining this sentence into the Transboundary Issues section (now Lines 153-164) with some minor changes to clarify it is only an example and other options exist.

Transboundary Issues

Management of transboundary stocks is one of the most difficult problems in the management of CPS. Ideally, transboundary CPS stocks would be managed cooperatively by the U.S., Canada, and Mexico on the basis of common policy. At present, there are no cooperative management agreements with Mexico or Canada.

In the absence of a cooperative management agreement, the default approach in the CPS FMP sets harvest levels for U.S. fisheries by prorating the total target harvest level according to the portion of the stock resident in U.S. waters or estimating the biomass in U.S. waters only. In practice, this approach is similar to managing the U.S. and Mexican portions of a stock separately, since harvest for the U.S. fishery in a given year depends ultimately on the biomass in U.S. waters.

Other approaches that may be developed in the future are not precluded by this default. If the portion of the stock in U.S. waters cannot be estimated or is highly variable, then other approaches may be used. It may be more practical, for example, to use a high CUTOFF could be used in the harvest control rule to compensate for stock biomass off Mexico or Canada.

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Future FMP work

Ultimately, after this in-depth review of the FMP, the CPSMT recognizes parts of the FMP warrant further review as noted previously ([I.3.a CPSMT Report 1, November 2022](#)), and recommends this be undertaken under a separate action.

PFMC
04/04/23