

COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON ESSENTIAL FISH
HABITAT AMENDMENT- FINAL ACTION

The Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel (CPSAS) met with the Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team and Habitat Committee to hear a presentation about updating the essential fish habitat (EFH) for species within the CPS fishery management plan. The CPSAS recommends the Council adopt Alternative 1b as the final preferred alternative.

The conservation representative on the CPSAS is concerned that the current EFH Review failed to analyze the impacts of market squid purse seines on bottom habitats using available fishery data. An updated analysis of fishing impacts to EFH is a required component of EFH Reviews. Specifically, there is a need to evaluate and quantify the extent of bottom contact by market squid purse seines using available data from fishery logbooks on the locations and depths in which this gear type is used and compare these to the depths of purse seine nets and maps of benthic seafloor habitat types. Such analysis is necessary before determining whether adverse impacts to EFH from market squid purse seines are minimal and temporary.

PFMC
06/21/23