

COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON
SPECIAL PROJECT 1: ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT AND FLEXIBILITY

The Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel (CPSAS) has the following recommendations for Priority Area recommending adaptive management and flexibility measures.

Under H.1 Attachment 2, the CPSAS acknowledges the effective use of ‘if-then’ statements within in-season management practices while cautioning that these tools can hinder management efficiency by forcing or preventing responses in unanticipated circumstances. Under H.1 Attachment 3, the existing CPS exempted fishing permit (EFP) process is working efficiently and effectively while the sardine fishery remains closed, and many of the recommended action items under this attachment are likely more relevant to other fisheries. The CPSAS recognizes the limited resources available for scientific research and the advantages of collecting additional data on CPS stocks and improving efficiency in council processes. Under H.1 Attachment 4, the CPSAS emphasizes that while fishermen’s knowledge is unique, useful and can potentially augment scientific data, more guidance from scientists is needed to ensure the information can serve a management or scientific purpose (as often fishermen’s reports are rejected as anecdotal). Collection of information should prioritize input that feeds directly into management. Forums and workshops between fishermen, science, and management can improve the quality and utility of input and contribute to collaboration, yet late engagement, short notice, and timing conflicts have prevented fishermen from attending and at times limited progress in this area. Early engagement and more flexible forums (such as online forums) may increase participation and cultivate communication between fishermen and scientists.

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