

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON  
CPS ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT FIVE-YEAR PLAN

Mr. Kerry Griffin summarized the Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS) Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) five-year review process, along with the options considered for possible amendment to the CPS Fishery Management Plan (FMP). The CPS Management Team's (CPSMT) review included a literature review on the distribution and ocean habitat characteristics for CPS species, the possibility of a distinct EFH designation for market squid (currently grouped with fish species) based on identification of benthic spawning grounds, and identification of broad-scale threats to EFH that were not included in the previous EFH designation for CPS (climate change and ocean acidification). The CPSMT recommends that the Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation be expanded to include the new information, but no changes be made in EFH designation for CPS. The SSC concurs with the CPSMT recommendations.

However, the SSC notes that market squid may not be dealt with effectively in the current EFH FMP because – unlike the other CPS – successful squid spawning is dependent on the benthic habitat. This is unavoidable at present because the location and quantity of the benthic habitat used for squid spawning is unknown. The SSC notes that recent research (yet to be reviewed) may considerably improve our understanding of the market squid spawning habitat, and may be incorporated in the next review of EFH designation for CPS.

PFMC  
11/06/10