

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON
ANCHOVY GENERAL STATUS REVIEW

Mr. Dale Sweetnam from the Southwest Fisheries Science Center presented “A summary of the current information on coastal pelagic species with an emphasis on northern anchovy,” that included preliminary results from 2015 surveys. There is evidence that the northern anchovy stock has declined in recent years and is at low abundance. However, preliminary results from 2015 show that there was record high abundance of young of the year and larval anchovy in the juvenile rockfish survey and the Newport Hydrographic line off the coast of Oregon. The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) recommends that an anchovy stock assessment be conducted to evaluate all sources of information. An assessment should consider area weighting or other means of addressing the unequal sampling densities of different habitats within the CalCOFI grid.

To obtain reliable estimates of the stock status for short-lived species such as anchovies, monitoring and assessments should be done frequently. For monitored species in the Coastal Pelagic Species Fishery Management Plan, a routine process for evaluating trends in data, even in the absence of stock assessments, should be implemented. The SSC recognizes that assessing the central subpopulation of northern anchovy will be challenging, and a workshop on methods to assess short-lived species focusing on this subpopulation may be beneficial to provide guidance to assessment authors.

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