

STOCK ASSESSMENT WORKSHOP REPORT

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) and the Southwest Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC) co-hosted a technical workshop to make recommendations on stock assessment approaches for U.S. West Coast Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS) stocks. The workshop was held at the SWFSC's La Jolla campus, May 2-5, 2016 and was conceived of at the November 2015 Council meeting. Recognizing that most West Coast CPS stocks are considered data-limited, and that several have not been assessed for many years, the Council recommended the technical workshop as a way to consider small pelagics stock assessment approaches from other parts of the world; and make recommendations on how best to assess West Coast stocks, especially those with limited available data.

The focus of the workshop was on the Central Subpopulation of Northern Anchovy (CSNA), due to concerns that the biomass may have declined recently and the fact that the stock has not been assessed for over 20 years. The workshop also addressed other finfish stocks managed under the CPS fishery management plan (FMP): the Northern Subpopulation of Northern Anchovy (NSNA), Pacific mackerel, Pacific sardine, and jack mackerel.

The workshop report (Agenda Item E.2.a, Stock Assessment Workshop Report) includes recommendations for both short-term and a long-term approaches for the CSNA, depending on the time frame, data, and resources available. The SWFSC will first be utilizing a short-term approach, using the Daily Egg Production Model index of abundance to generate a biomass estimate, which the Council is scheduled to review at its November 2016 meeting in Garden Grove, California.

Other key findings from the workshop include recommendations for assessing the other West Coast CPS stocks, research recommendations related to processing of biological samples; and consideration of various indices of abundance such as the Acoustic-Trawl Method survey, California Cooperative Oceanic Fisheries Investigations survey, aerial survey estimates, and other indices of abundance.

The Scientific and Statistical Committee reviewed the workshop report during the June 2016 Council meeting, and developed a report for inclusion in September briefing book materials (Agenda Item E.2.b, SSC Report).

Council Action:

- 1. Consider the Recommendations Contained in the Workshop Report.**
- 2. Provide Guidance on Future Stock Assessment Priorities.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item E.2.a, Stock Assessment Workshop Report: "Report of the NOAA Southwest Fisheries Science Center & Pacific Fishery Management Council Workshop on CPS Assessments."
2. Agenda Item E.2.b, SSC Report.
3. Agenda Item E.2.b, USFWS Report.
4. Agenda Item E.2.c, Public Comment.

Agenda Order:

E.2 Stock Assessment Workshop Report

- a. Stock Assessment Workshop Report
- b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
- c. Public Comment
- d. **Council Action:** Review and Provide Guidance on Future Stock Assessment Priorities

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