

NORTHERN ANCHOVY STOCK ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES

At its November 2015 meeting, the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) recommended that the Southwest Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC) pursue a stock assessment for the central subpopulation of northern anchovy (CSNA), and recommended a workshop to develop the best approach for this data-poor stock. Recommendations from the workshop included short-term and a longer-term approaches to a stock assessment. Following the recommendations for the short-term approach, the SWFSC produced a data-poor assessment, in the form of a relative abundance index of egg and larval production in the Southern California Bight (Agenda Item G.4.a, SWFSC Report). That assessment was reviewed by the Scientific and Statistical Committee's (SSC) Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS) Subcommittee on October 11 of this year.

In November 2015, the Council also requested information and future consideration of alternative management and policy approaches to anchovy management. In response, the CPS Management Team (CPSMT) produced a white paper describing the current management and pathways the Council could follow, should it decide to change the current management of this stock (September 2015 Agenda Item E.3.a, CPSMT Report).

The CSNA is currently managed as a Monitored stock under the CPS Fishery Management Plan. As part of Amendment 13, a default harvest control rule for Monitored stocks was established, designed to be precautionary by setting the acceptable biological catch (ABC) at 25% of the overfishing limit (OFL). The OFL for the CSNA is based on a 1991 maximum sustainable yield estimate, and was recommended by the SSC and adopted by the Council in November 2010, to be set at 100,000 metric tons (mt), with a corresponding ABC of 25,000 mt.

At this meeting, the Council may consider initiating action based on stock status or biological concerns, and may also consider changes in the management approach for CSNA.

Council Action:

1. **Consider and discuss the SWFSC relative abundance index.**
2. **Consider future management approaches to the central subpopulation of northern anchovy.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item G.4.a, SWFSC Report: Egg and Larval Production of the Central Subpopulation of the Northern Anchovy in the Southern California Bight.
2. Agenda Item G.4.b, Public Comment.

Agenda Order:

- G.4 Northern Anchovy Stock Assessment and Management Measures Kerry Griffin
- a. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. **Council Action:** Review Stock Status and Consider Revisions to Harvest Specifications, Management Measures, and Management Category

PFMC
10/20/16