

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON THE  
PACIFIC SARDINE HARVEST FRACTION

Ms. Lorna Wargo of the Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT) presented the preliminary draft of the Environmental Assessment (EA) and additional analyses conducted by the CPSMT. Mr. Josh Lindsay was present for the discussion as well.

The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) supports the change to using the 3-year moving average of the CalCOFI temperature index for the harvest guideline (HG), as was done for the overfishing limit (OFL) control rule adopted by the Council in March 2014. In order to fully evaluate the impact of this change and the Alternatives presented, however, Table 1 in the EA should include a column for Alternative 1 (the No Action Alternative). To produce this column, a simulation needs to be conducted using the current harvest control rules (including OFL, acceptable biological catch [ABC] and HG rules), including the temperature data from Scripps Institute of Oceanography (for the HG) as well as that from CalCOFI (for the OFL, ABC, and to drive the biological simulation) for the same time period used as the basis for simulations of the other Alternatives. The SSC expects that the results of this analysis will be generally similar to Scenario New8 (=Variant 22) in the “Revised Analyses Related to Sardine Harvest Parameters” (Agenda Item I.1.b, Revised Analyses, March 2014).

The analyses in the EA are based upon a single combination of  $P^*$  and sigma. Alternative values of these parameters should be considered to expand the range of ABC control rules that are analyzed. For example, a  $P^*$  of 0.25 with a sigma of 0.72 could be considered.

The table of species listed as endangered or threatened under the ESA should be revised. For example, the eastern distinct population segment of Steller sea lions is no longer listed as threatened under the ESA; and yelloweye rockfish is listed only in Puget Sound.

PFMC  
09/12/14