

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON  
ESTABLISHING MAXIMUM SUSTAINABLE YIELD (MSY) REFERENCE POINT FOR  
NORTHERN ANCHOVY

No new scientific information relevant to establishing an maximum sustainable yield (MSY) for the northern subpopulation of northern anchovy is available, and so the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) reiterates its recommendation from November 2010 that  $F_{MSY}=0.3$ . This is the default exploitation rate for Pacific mackerel, and is deemed appropriate because northern anchovy are likely to be at least as productive as Pacific mackerel, and likely have higher natural mortality, which would typically be associated with a higher  $F_{MSY}$ . The SSC notes that when used in the context of coastal pelagic species (CPS) management,  $F_{MSY}$  is an annual exploitation rate rather than an instantaneous fishing mortality rate.

Reference points for monitored CPS stocks such as the northern subpopulation of northern anchovy are difficult to determine due to limited data to estimate biomass and productivity. This subpopulation is currently lightly fished, with inconsistent effort, making the time series of catch an unreliable indicator of stock status. Due to both high uncertainty and large fluctuations in stock biomass, a fixed biomass-based or catch-based MSY is not meaningful.

$F_{MSY}$  should be revisited if new information on productivity becomes available.

PFMC  
11/01/13