

COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON
METHODOLOGY PRELIMINARY TOPIC SELECTION AND REVIEW PROCESS

The Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT) received a presentation by Mr. Kirk Lynn, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), on a proposal for a methodology review of the Southern California Bight Aerial Survey of Pacific Sardine (SCBAS) as described in Agenda Item E.4.a, Attachment 1. The survey principals (CDFW and California Wetfish Producers Association) propose the review to establish the readiness for potential inclusion of the SBAS in future stock assessments. Such a review would also provide guidance on any changes that may be needed for the survey results to be used to improve the sardine stock assessment.

In June 2013, the CPSMT supported a methodology review for the Southwest Fisheries Science Center Hydroacoustic-Trawl Survey (A-T) and the Northwest Sardine Survey (NWSS) (Agenda Item I.3.b, Supplemental CPSMT Report), and noted that other surveys approved by the Council for review could potentially be conducted concurrently.

The CPSMT notes that an independent review of the Southwest Fisheries Science Center Sardine-Hake survey (SaKe) will be conducted in January 2014 to ensure that it is reliably assessing hake and sardine biomass.

The CPSMT also recommends that a joint review be conducted for the NWSS and the SCBAS before June 2014. This will enable either survey to incorporate any recommendations resulting from the review into their surveys. The NWSS has not been reviewed since 2009. The CPSMT supports the SCBAS review for the purpose of providing guidance for potential subsequent inclusion in sardine stock assessments.

The CPSMT also considered the draft Council Operating Procedure (COP) 24 Methodology and Data Review Process for Coastal Pelagic Species (Agenda Item E.4.a, Attachment 2) and recommends its adoption. This draft COP complements the combined groundfish and CPS Terms of Reference for methodology reviews.