

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON 2014 METHODOLOGY
PRELIMINARY TOPIC SELECTION REVIEW AND PROCESS

Mr. Kirk Lynn (CDFW) provided the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) with an overview of the aerial survey for Pacific sardine in the Southern California Bight. This survey is a partnership between the CDFW and the California Wetfish Processors Association. The survey involves a series of transects during which an observer visually estimates the tonnage and number of schools on each transect and photographs are taken throughout the transect. The tonnage of fish estimated for the Bight could be used to create a relative index of abundance for use in assessments. The data collected on species composition of schools could be validated using samples collected using jigging. That sampling could also be used to provide biological information on the size composition of fish schools.

The SSC identified several technical issues that would be discussed during a review of this aerial survey and relayed them to the proponents. Addressing some of these issues will require the collection of additional data. The proponents of the survey should consider whether it will be possible to sufficiently address these issues by the time of a review. A review of the California Bight survey could potentially occur during Spring 2014 at the earliest, ideally in conjunction with a review of the acoustic-trawl survey or the aerial survey in the Pacific Northwest.

The SSC reviewed the draft Council Operating Procedure (COP) 24. The COP should make clear the link with the Terms of Reference developed for conducting methodology reviews for groundfish and Coastal Pelagic Species. In addition, it should be made clear that the TOR referred to on page 2 of the COP pertains to the technical aspects of the specific methodology being reviewed.

PFMC
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