

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL REPORT ON 2013 PACIFIC SARDINE STOCK  
ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT, INCLUDING TRIBAL SET-ASIDE

The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) heard a presentation from Dr. Kevin Hill on the new Pacific sardine biomass projection. No new survey data are included in the projection model; however, catch data that were previously included as preliminary estimates are now incorporated as actual values for the second semester of 2011 and the first and second semesters of 2012. The additional data enabled estimation of 2012 year class recruitment, which was below the historical average.

The harvest guideline (29,770 mt) has decreased from the previous assessment, resulting from a declining trend in biomass, coupled with a change in timing of the biomass estimate from the middle to the end of the year.

The SSC endorses the overfishing limit for the calendar year 2014 (59,214 mt) which will be updated (superseded) by a new assessment scheduled to be reviewed in March 2014. The new assessment will incorporate updated fishery composition data for the US, and new survey data, including 1) a spring 2013 daily egg production method (DEPM) estimate, and 2) spring and summer 2013 acoustic-trawl survey (ATM) estimates. Based on preliminary survey reports, a continued decline is expected.

The SSC recommends keeping the stock at category 1 for the purpose of deriving the acceptable biological catch (ABC). The SSC also notes that a continuing shortcoming of the Stock Synthesis model (no coefficient of variation of summary biomass) should be addressed. This information is routinely needed to derive the P\* buffer, and would greatly aid calculation of ABCs going forward.

PFMC  
11/02/13