

RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE GROUND FISH/CPS STOCK ASSESSMENT
TERMS OF REFERENCE, REFLECTING COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES MANAGEMENT
AND ASSESSMENT SCHEDULES

The edits below are recommended to bring the joint groundfish/CPS terms of reference in line with recent changes to the management and assessment schedules for Pacific sardine and Pacific mackerel. Suggested deletions are in strikethrough, and suggested additions are underlined.

Global: The term “HG control rule” should be changed to “harvest control rule.”

Page 6 (In 2, Stock Assessment Prioritization):

“Stock assessments for Pacific sardine ~~and Pacific mackerel~~ are conducted annually, with full assessments occurring every third year, and update assessments during interim years. Full stock assessments for Pacific mackerel are conducted every four years, with catch-only projection estimates also conducted two years after each full assessment. Assessments for groundfish species.....”

Page 7 (In 4.1, Shared Responsibilities):

Delete “assuring” and replace with “ensuring.”

Page 11 (In STAR panel requests for addition analyses):

“...If the STAR panel agrees that important results have been generated, it should forward its findings and conclusions to the SSC and the Council for consideration in setting of OFLs, ABCs, and ACLs (for groundfish and CPS), and HGs (for CPS only). A key section of the assessment is that on research needed to improve the assessment. Highlighting research priorities should increase the likelihood that future stocks assessments can be raised to category 1.”

Page 18 (In 6, Update Assessments):

“For ~~CPS~~ Pacific sardine, update assessments typically occur during two years out of every three. For Pacific mackerel, catch-only projection estimates occur every four years, alternating with full assessments. For groundfish, the initial....”

Page 26 (In Implementation for Pacific Sardine):

1. BIOMASS is the estimated stock biomass (ages 1+) at the start of the next year from the current assessment,
2. CUTOFF (150,000 mt) is the lowest level of estimated biomass at which harvest is allowed,
3. FRACTION is an environment-based percentage of biomass above the CUTOFF that can be harvested by the fisheries. Given that the productivity of the sardine stock has been shown to increase during relatively warm-water ocean conditions, the following formula has been used to determine an appropriate (sustainable) FRACTION value:

FRACTION = 0.248649805(T²) - 8.190043975(T) + 67.4558326, where T is the running

average sea-surface temperature at Scripps Pier, La Jolla, California during the three preceding years. Under the harvest control rule, FRACTION is constrained and ranges between 5% and 15% depending on the value of T.

4. U.S. DISTRIBUTION is the percentage of BIOMASS in U.S. waters (87%).

NOTE: at its April 2014 meeting, the Council adopted a new FRACTION formula and SST index for immediate use in calculating the sardine OFL, and for future use in calculating the HG, after the Council takes final action. The new FRACTION formula is $E_{msy} = -18.46452 + 3.25209T - 0.19723T^2 + 0.0041863T^3$, with the Temperature term (T) derived from the CalCOFI SST index.