

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON
SARDINE FISHERY START DATE AND MANAGEMENT SCHEDULE

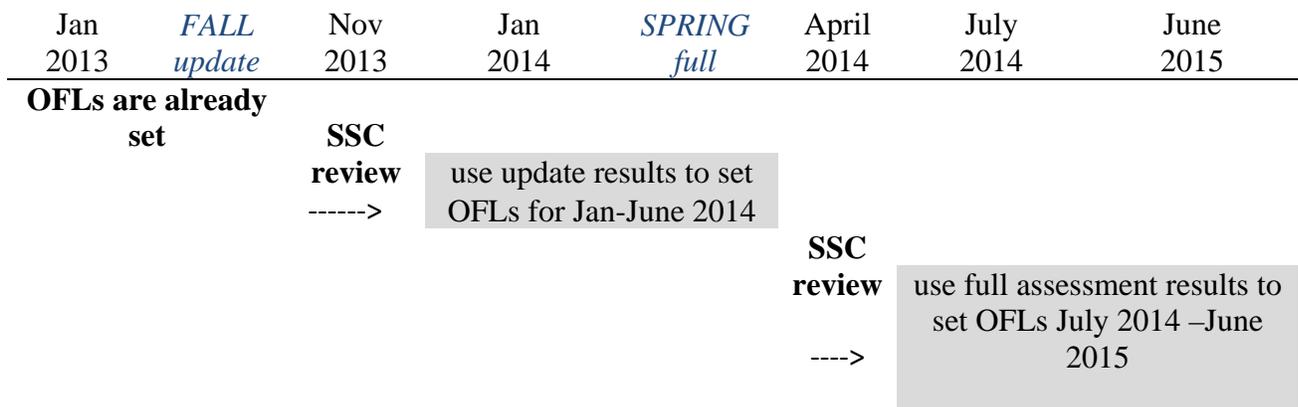
Sardine Fishery Start Date

The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) continues to support a shift in the sardine fishery start date from January 1 to July 1 to allow more time for modeling and sensitivity analyses to estimate the stock size of Pacific sardine.

In transitioning to a new start date, the SSC supports the process (illustration provided below) to set catch specifications for the 2014 season that were outlined in the Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT) April 2013 statement as follows:

- Forego a full-scale update review by the SSC-Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS) Subcommittee in fall, 2013.
- Use the current assessment model to produce a simple catch-only projection update that would provide the basis for the first allocation period of 2014 (January 1 to June 30). The Stock Assessment Team (STAT) provides the update in an executive summary format.
- At the November 2013 Council meeting, the SSC reviews the abbreviated update, and the Council adopts management measures for January - June of 2014.
- In February 2014, conduct a full stock assessment review for the following July 1 start date. SSC reviews in April.
- In April 2014, Council adopts the full stock assessment and management measures for July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015.

The recommendation to the STAT was to update the current assessment model with recent catches and forecast the biomass for 2014, using the biomass estimate at the beginning of the fishing season to set the overfishing limit (OFL) for the January through June, 2014 time period. Forecasting should account for the uncertainty in recruitment rather than assuming that recruitment comes off the stock recruitment relationship.



Proposed Methodology Reviews

The SSC discussed the status of planning a proposed methodology review meeting to cover: 1) the Southwest Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC) Acoustic-Trawl (ATM) survey, and 2) the northwest sardine survey (NWSS). At the Council's request, other surveys targeting sardine could be reviewed at the proposed survey joint methodology review meeting.

The chair of the SSC-CPS Subcommittee has sent each of the lead scientists of the ATM and NWSS surveys a list of potential items to be discussed in a methodology review. In order to facilitate planning of the proposed methodology review, the SSC requests a formal, point by point response to these, in time for review at the September SSC meeting.

PFMC

06/23/13