

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE COMMENTS ON
STATUS OF APPROVAL OF FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN

The SSC reminds the Council that since the coastal pelagic species (CPS) plan has been adopted, the annual Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) reports will need to be prepared and reviewed within the Council process. As the Council moves toward ecosystem management, accurate assessments of the CPS resources and fisheries will become very important. A recent California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) mackerel assessment report has been reviewed internally by CDFG. The 1998 sardine assessment has been informally reviewed internally and distributed to scientists outside of CDFG and NMFS Southwest Fisheries Science Center. The Council will need to work with the agencies to set up an annual procedure for reviewing CPS SAFE reports possibly by implementing, for example, a Stock Assessment Review (STAR) panel. Given limited funding for the CPS fisheries, it is critical that the responsibilities for such a review process be established sooner rather than later.

PFMC
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