

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE COMMENTS ON
ANCHOVY BIOMASS ESTIMATE AND QUOTAS FOR 1999-2000 SEASON

With the adoption of the Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS) plan by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), the northern anchovy stock becomes a monitored species. As noted in Exhibit B.2., the default maximum sustainable yield control rule (MSY) for anchovies is 25% of the MSY, or 25,000 mt for a U.S. harvest quota. NMFS last assessed the anchovy resource in 1995 and has not reported any trends in populations since 1997. Given these conditions, the default harvest quota appears to be more than sufficient given current levels of exploitation by both Mexican and U.S. fisheries.

PFMC
06/22/99