

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON  
PACIFIC SARDINE

Dr. Doyle Hanan briefed the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) on results from the recent Pacific sardine assessment and the harvest guideline recommended by the Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT) for the 2000 season. Dr. Kevin Hill, lead assessment author, was available to answer questions on the assessment.

The full sardine assessment report is currently being drafted and will be incorporated into the annual Coastal Pelagic Species Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation document to be prepared for the June 2000 Council meeting. Future sardine assessments will be completed for review by the CPSMT and SSC in mid-October for discussion at the November Council meeting.

The SSC discussed procedural aspects of stock assessment reviews for Pacific sardine and Pacific mackerel. At this stage, it is uncertain how the annual stock assessments should be reviewed, whether by the SSC or by some independent process. The CPSMT should establish a standard process for future years.

The biomass estimate from the CANSAR-TAM stock assessment model uses the best available data from the California fishery and annual NMFS and CalCOFI surveys. The surveys are from a limited area, while biomass needs to be established on coastwide basis. A significant sardine fishery is based in Ensenada, Baja California which rivals the annual California landings. Efforts should be made to exchange data and coordinate management among Mexico, the U.S., and Canada to avoid future overharvest of this transboundary stock.

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03/08/00