

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE STATEMENT ON  
STATUS OF COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN AMENDMENTS FOR  
BYCATCH AND MARKET SQUID MAXIMUM SUSTAINABLE YIELD, ACCEPTABLE BIOLOGICAL  
CATCH, AND TRIBAL FISHING RIGHTS

Mr. Jim Morgan of the National Marine Fisheries Service, Southwest Region, briefed the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) on *Amendment 9 to the Coastal Pelagic Species Fishery Management Plan*. Ms. Marcie Yaremko of the California Department of Fish and Game provided the SSC with a detailed briefing on Section 5 of the Amendment pertaining to acceptable biological catch (ABC) and maximum sustainable yield (MSY) for market squid. The SSC discussion focused largely on Section 5.

In March 2000, the SSC recommended the Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT) consider expanding the squid MSY proxy to reflect the presence of squid in unfished spawning areas. At this meeting, the SSC was provided with a number of MSY proxy options that incorporate this expansion. The geographic expansion was based on a number of assumptions (e.g., equal productivity among block areas, limited geographic migration of squid) that the SSC could not definitively evaluate on the basis of available information. In March 2000, the SSC also supported the CPSMT's recommendation to set ABC equal to MSY. The SSC's March recommendations regarding geographic expansion of the MSY proxy and setting ABC equal to MSY both presumed the existence of management controls such as squid refugia areas. The SSC recommends the CPSMT include information regarding existing squid management measures (including refugia areas) in the current draft document before it goes out for public review.

In addition to the ABC=MSY option, Amendment 9 includes three other options that involve setting ABC less than the MSY proxy. Because squid are short-lived and highly variable in abundance from one year to the next, the SSC does not consider it appropriate to base annual ABC on MSY. However, the SSC understands the need for the CPSMT to do this to meet regulatory requirements.

The CPSMT has made a credible effort to deal with the information and regulatory constraints that it faced in addressing issues related to MSY and ABC. The SSC considers Amendment 9 to include a reasonable range of ABC and MSY options for public review.

PFMC  
06/29/00