

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON
UPDATE ON SQUID MAXIMUM SUSTAINABLE YIELD METHODOLOGIES WORKSHOP

The Department of Commerce rejected portions of Amendment 8 to the Coastal Pelagic Species Fishery Management Plan (CPS FMP) on the grounds that the amendment did not include an estimate of maximum sustainable yield (MSY) for squid. In September 2000, the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) reviewed newly derived estimates of squid MSY. Because of the uncertainties surrounding these estimates and more generally, ongoing concern regarding the appropriateness of defining MSY for this species, the SSC did not recommend an MSY value. Fortunately, recent research conducted on squid life history (including growth, maturity, and fecundity) along with augmented fishery-dependent data (port sampling and logbooks) have provided significant new information and data. The SSC recommended (and the Council concurred) that the SSC work with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) to organize a stock assessment review (STAR) panel during 2001 to integrate the ongoing squid research in California into the Council's CPS FMP. Terms of reference for the STAR panel were meant to address the MSY issue as well as candidate control rules for practical squid management.

The STAR Panel will convene during May 14-17, 2001 (3.5 days) at the Southwest Fisheries Science Center, La Jolla, California. The Panel will include representatives of the SSC, CDFG, NMFS, CPSMT, CPSAS, and two outside reviewers. Tentative panel members are:

SSC: Tom Jagielo (Co-Chair)
SSC: Ray Conser (Co-Chair)
SSC: Cindy Thomson
CDFG: Tom Barnes
CPSMT: Paul Smith
CPSAS: Heather Munro
Outside Reviewer: Johann Augustyn (Marine and Coastal Management Institute - South Africa)
Outside Reviewer: Larry Jacobson (NMFS - Woods Hole)

Approximately ten working papers are in preparation for the review, and will be distributed to the STAR Panel by May 1, 2001. All working paper authors will present their paper(s) to the STAR Panel and will be available throughout the week to consult with the panel, provide additional information & data, and to carry out additional analyses, if needed. A draft STAR Panel report will be available for distribution with the briefing book prior to the June Council meeting.

Terms of reference for the Squid STAR Panel are:

1. Review recent findings on the biology and life history of market squid, including the assessment-related aspects of age and growth, maturity, fecundity, spawning behavior, longevity, habitat, and environment.
2. Review newly developed fisheries-related data, including catch history, effort data, and port sampling protocols as they relate to estimation of key biological, population parameters.
3. Review all aspects of MSY estimation, as required by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act for all FMPs, and address the concept of MSY as it relates to a species that is short-lived and whose abundance/availability is largely environmentally determined.
4. Consider management measures for market squid, including operationally-practical control rules, long-term monitoring programs, and in-season adjustment mechanisms.
5. Prepare a report for the Council SSC detailing the findings of the review, practical management recommendations, and the key research and data needs.