

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON
STOCK ASSESSMENT REVIEW PANEL REPORT

Dr. André Punt presented the coastal pelagic species (CPS) stock assessment review (STAR) Panel reports for Pacific sardine and Pacific mackerel to the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC). The SSC endorses the STAR Panel reports and the Panel's recommendations. The Stock Assessment Teams (STAT) are commended for excellent presentations, reports, and willingness to conduct additional model runs and other work completed during the STAR process.

The STAR Panel reviewed new assessment methodologies and recommended the most appropriate framework for conducting future assessments. The Panel did not focus on results of individual assessments or the harvest control rules currently in place. New assessments will be presented to the Council for sardine in November 2004 and for mackerel in June 2005. The STAR Panel reports provide recommendations about use of the new assessment methodologies for management of the 2005 sardine fishery and 2005-2006 Pacific mackerel fishery. The reports also discuss research and data needs of the CPS fisheries.

The new assessment model for sardine, ASAP (age-structured-assessment-program), offers a more straightforward treatment of multiple fleets and areas than the model used for past assessments, CANSAR-TAM (catch-at-age-analysis-for-sardine-two-area-model). The STAR Panel recommended use of ASAP in the next sardine assessment. The ASAP model was also used for mackerel, and compared to the ADEPT model (a modified virtual-population-analysis model). The STAR Panel also recommended use of the ASAP model for the next mackerel assessment, but also recommended using ADEPT for sensitivity analysis.

In general, stock structure and mixing are not well understood for both species. The STAR Panel recommended, and the SSC supports, continuing with the working hypothesis of a single Pacific sardine stock extending from Mexico to British Columbia.

PFMC
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