

COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON LITIGATION SETTLEMENT DISCUSSION

The Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel (CPSAS) reviewed the Settlement Agreement (Agenda Item G.4, Attachment 1) and the Draft Proposed Terms of Reference (TOR) (Agenda Item G.4, Attachment 2) concerning the upcoming Pacific Sardine Distribution Workshop. The CPSAS discussed the methods for estimating the Distribution parameter included in the “objectives” section of the TOR and also discussed recommendations for tentative workshop participants with the Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT).

In reviewing the alternatives for estimating Distribution, the CPSAS focused on items #2 and #5.

Item 2 will explore the use of international landings information to estimate the Distribution parameter. The SSC noted in their statement (Agenda Item G.4.a, Supplement SSC Report) that the definition of Distribution in the CPS Fishery Management Plan is “*the average portion of biomass assumed to be in U.S. waters.*” While catch information may be used to inform Distribution, it should not be used as a proxy. Use of landings information from Mexico would require delineating the proportion of catch taken from the northern and southern subpopulations. Additionally, and more importantly, sardine management in Mexico and Canada are not comparable to that in the United States. Differences in regulations, along with a variety of other factors result in different levels of fishing effort and fishing mortality among these three countries. The CPSAS recommends these points be taken into consideration during the workshop, noting that catch may not reflect the true distribution of Pacific sardine. It should also be noted that the 2013 harvest parameters workshop attendees did not support the use of international catch as a proxy for distribution (April 2013 Briefing Book Agenda Item I.1.b, Attachment 1).

Regarding item #5, which uses a temperature-based model to predict Distribution, the CPSAS cautions the Council and workshop principals that the presence of favorable habitat does not necessarily equate to the presence of Pacific sardine in those areas (April 2013 Briefing Book Agenda Item I.1.b, Attachment 1).

To assist the Council in finalizing workshop participants, the CPSAS recommends these individuals be selected for the following outlined positions:

Workshop Reviewers

- Workshop Chair: Andre Punt
- Scientific and Statistical Committee representatives: Tom Jagielo and Owen Hamel
- Sardine expert: Alec MacCall
- Geostatistician: TBD
- Conservation Scientist: Selina Heppell

Workshop Analysts/Advisors

- CPSMT representative: TBD
- CPSAS representative: Mike Okoniewski

- Diane Pleschner-Steele
- Geoff Shester
- Richard Parrish (original CPS Fishery Management Plan Amendment 8 Analyst)
- Council Member: TBD
- Kevin Hill and Paul Crone (Assessment biologists, Southwest Fisheries Science Center)
- David Demer and Juan Zwolinski (Acoustic trawl method survey analysts, Southwest Fisheries Science Center)
- Fisheries Scientists: David Checkley
- Canadian representative: Sandy McFarlane and Sean MacConnachie
- Mexican representative: Roberto Félix Uraga and Tim Baumgartner

The CPSAS also supports the SSC recommendation (Agenda Item G.4.a, Supplemental SSC Report) that the workshop principals and authors of the workshop report should not be advocates for any particular method.

PFMC
06/16/15