

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON LITIGATION SETTLEMENT DISCUSSION

The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) discussed plans for the upcoming August workshop to examine the Pacific sardine harvest control rule DISTRIBUTION parameter, and potential alternative means of accounting for the portion of the northern sub-population that is subject to harvest outside U.S. waters. The discussion focused on 1) the roles of workshop participants, and 2) a workshop process that is likely to succeed in developing an objective report of scientific knowledge on this topic for use by the Council for decision-making. To facilitate achieving the workshop's ambitious set of objectives, the SSC recommends that an additional half-day be added to the workshop agenda.

In planning the workshop, it will be useful to categorize workshop participants as either: 1) Analysts/Advisors, or 2) Reviewers. The Analyst/Advisor participants will consist of both: 1) individuals who will produce work products and give presentations (Analysts), and 2) other persons who have useful knowledge to help inform the discussions (Advisors). The Reviewers will consist of individuals charged with the task of synthesizing the information provided to the workshop, developing recommendations/findings, and writing the workshop report. Additionally, the SSC recommends adding persons with knowledge of the stocks in Canada and Mexico to the list of participants. A draft list of prospective participants is provided below:

Tentative Workshop Reviewers

André Punt (Workshop Chair)
Tom Jagielo, Owen Hamel (SSC representatives)
Alec MacCall (Sardine Expert, NMFS Retired)
Geostatistician: TBD
Conservation scientist: TBD

Tentative: (Analysts/Advisors)

Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS) Management Team representative: TBD
CPS Advisory Subpanel representative: TBD
Diane Pleschner-Steele
Geoff Shester
Richard Parrish, (Original CPS Fishery Management Plan Amendment 8
analysts)
Council Member: TBD
Kevin Hill and Paul Crone (Assessment Biologists, Southwest Fisheries Science
Center)
David Demer and Juan Zwolinski (Southwest Fisheries Science Center Acoustic
trawl method survey data analysts)
Canadian and Mexican fisheries representatives

The SSC recommends that a scientist familiar with geo-statistics be included in the workshop as a Reviewer, and notes that Dr. Cleridy Lennert-Cody (IATTC) has the skills needed to review

the geo-statistical aspects of the analyses. The list of Workshop Reviewers also includes a conservation scientist. To improve the likelihood of workshop success, the conservation scientist Reviewer should not be an advocate for any particular method. The SSC suggests that nominations for potential conservation scientists should be submitted to the Chair of the workshop, along with their CVs. The Chair, in conjunction with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the SSC, will then select the review panel member.

The SSC recognizes that considerable work will need to be undertaken prior to the workshop for it to be a success, and notes that the Southwest Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC) has the expertise to provide analytical support related to methods 1-5 in the draft Terms of Reference (Agenda Item G.4, Attachment 4). The SSC recommends that the proposed Chair of the workshop develop, in conjunction with SWFSC, a work plan for the analysts and an agenda in conjunction with Council Staff soon after the present Council meeting to ensure that documents are available for discussion at the workshop.

The SSC also discussed method 2 (i.e., using landings from Canada and Mexico), and how it related to the recommendation made in G.4.b, Supplemental Public Comment recognizing both of these are similar in nature, and could be discussed together. The SSC notes that the definition of DISTRIBUTION in the fisheries management plan is “*the average portion of biomass assumed to be in U.S. waters.*”

PFMC
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