# COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON 2016 METHODOLOGY REVIEW PRELIMINARY TOPIC SELECTION INCLUDING DATA-LIMITED ASSESSEMENT METHODS

The Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel (CPSAS) and the Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT) met jointly with the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) to hear presentations on data-limited assessment methods and two proposals for methodology reviews: the California Department of Fish and Wildlife-California Wetfish Producers Association collaborative aerial survey, and the Southwest Fisheries Science Center's acoustic trawl survey. Although the SSC has not recommended any of these proposals for a methodology review during 2016, the CPSAS would like to acknowledge all of the hard work that has gone into these surveys to date.

The CPSAS encourages the development of explicit criteria for the California aerial survey so it can be submitted for a methodology review, and the data eventually included in stock assessments. Surveying the nearshore biomass is critical to accurately assessing the sardine stock.

The CPSAS recommends that the Council and National Marine Fisheries Service give highest priority to calibrating new acoustics on the fishing service vessel Ruben Lasker, including the new omni-directional sonar, so this vessel survey can be augmented, and the new data source incorporated into stock assessments. It will be necessary to have a timely methodology review once calibration is completed in order to use the data in an expedient manner. As mentioned in prior CPSAS statements, the omni-directional sonar is expected to more accurately record and reflect sardine biomass, as it can detect fish in the upper water column that are likely overlooked with down-sounder acoustical technology alone. The calibration of the sonar and methodology review for the Lasker survey need to occur as quickly as possible so that data from these new acoustic surveys can inform the stock assessment process, preferably before the next full assessment in 2017.

On a related note, the CPSAS would like to mention the effort undertaken by fishermen and processors in the Northwest to fund Frank Foode, a spotter pilot, in order to conduct overflights of the FS/V Shimada, and do aerial surveillance along some vessel transects lines last summer. This was a collaborative endeavor with the SWFSC staff and scientists last summer. In particular we wish to recognize Cisco Werner, David Demer, Gerard DiNardo, and Dale Sweetnam. This was a pilot project that has potential to combine high speed aerial photography with research vessel observation.

Finally, the CPSAS supports a workshop to develop optimal methods for assessing data-limited CPS stocks.

PFMC
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