

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON  
FUTURE COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA AND WORKLOAD PLANNING

The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) was asked to recommend whether new carry-over provisions (see [Agenda Item C.2, Attachment 1, March 2017](#)) have potential utility for management of coastal pelagic species (CPS). Application of carry-over provisions for CPS stocks would be problematic for the following reasons:

- These are short-lived species with high natural mortality rates and large population fluctuations. With high natural mortality rates, many fish unharvested in one year would no longer be alive the following year.
- Update assessments or full assessments are done every year for Pacific sardine, and annual catch limits (ACLs) are adjusted to account for harvests and changes to the stock. Thus, if unharvested fish remain in the harvestable biomass, they would already be accounted for in setting the ACL.
- Because monitored stocks are not assessed, carry-over provisions are not applicable to monitored stocks due to the high level of uncertainty about the status of these stocks and the acceptable biological catches. ACLs are not regularly adjusted for these stocks.

The SSC notes that some recent requests could lead to blurring the line between review body and workgroup. If the SSC participates extensively in the development and execution of analyses, that may compromise its independence during subsequent review to determine best available science.

PFMC  
04/10/17