

COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON
CENTRAL SUBPOPULATION OF NORTHERN ANCHOVY (CSNA) OVERFISHING
LIMIT (OFL) PROCESS

Following a request from the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) at its November 2016 meeting, a joint Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) - Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT) report (Agenda Item G.2.a, SSC/CPSMT Report) was produced on potential approaches to develop a new overfishing limit (OFL) for the Central Subpopulation of Northern Anchovy (CSNA). Four possible options (A-D) for developing a new OFL were proposed in this report.

The CPSMT has discussed these options on several occasions, and at this meeting has heard SSC and CPS Advisory Subpanel discussions. The CPSMT notes that the proposed options are all viable, yet insufficient or unreviewed data preclude us from recommending a specific option for revising the OFL at this time. The acoustic trawl (AT) method surveys and an integrated assessment model may improve anchovy management, however, potential application hinges upon the anticipated review of the AT method in January 2018 and the completion and subsequent review of an integrated assessment. Additionally there are efforts underway to explore increasing spatial coverage of surveys into nearshore areas that could improve annual estimates.

Based upon the joint report and subsequent discussions, the CPSMT does not recommend a change to the OFL at this time. Current management is conservative and the CSNA is not at a critically low level. CSNA stock status appears to be improving based on survey indications of enhanced spawning and recruitment to the fishery (November 2016 Agenda Item G.4.a, SWFSC Report and Supplemental SWFSC Report 2) and the results of the summer 2016 AT method survey (Agenda Item G.1.b, Supplemental SWFSC Report).

Although we are not recommending a specific option (A-D) at this time, the CPSMT will continue to explore changes to harvest management approaches and necessary technical analyses to support further evaluation of options and use for OFL development. The CPSMT will provide a progress report of our work in April of 2018.