

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE REPORT ON STOCK
ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY REVIEW TOPIC SELECTION

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and Marine Applied Research Exploration (MARE) have collected data from ROV surveys from 2003 through 2016 conducted as part of monitoring of fish abundance in Marine Protected Areas and associated reference sites open to fishing in California waters. The study provides data collected from 138 locations across the state providing the number and size of fish sampled along strip transects conducted over hundreds of kilometers of seafloor. These data might be used in an analogous fashion similar to that proposed by to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (Agenda Item E.3.a, Supplemental ODFW Report, September 2017) in providing an index of relative abundance and estimates of absolute abundance using seafloor habitat mapping currently available.

It is CDFW's understanding that the SSC may consider reviews of additional methodology proposals at the upcoming November Council meeting. If so, CDFW would appreciate consideration of a formal proposal brought at that time, which might allow for future use of the California ROV survey as a potential new data stream for use in upcoming stock assessments.