

FINAL APPROVAL OF AERIAL SURVEY METHODOLOGY

When new stock survey or data methodologies are developed for potential inclusion in Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) products, the Council provides a process for peer review and evaluation. Upon approval by the Scientific and Statistical Committee, the methodology can then be included in stock assessments or other Council products. For coastal pelagic species (CPS), the joint CPS and groundfish Terms of Reference (ToR) for methodology reviews describe the review process, including the preliminary stage of determining which methodologies should be considered for a formal review.

At its November 2016 meeting, the Council approved a methodology review for the Southern California Coastal Pelagic Species Survey (SCCPSS), which proposes an aerial survey to inform abundance estimates for northern anchovy and Pacific sardine in nearshore waters. A methodology review panel conducted the review at the Southwest Fisheries Science Center in La Jolla, California, April 17-18. The review panel produced a report included in advanced briefing book materials (Agenda Item D.2, Attachment 1).

At this meeting, the Council will consider the review panel's report, the proposed survey methodology (Agenda Item D.2.a, CDFW Report), reports from advisory bodies and public comments; and make a determination as to approving the methodology for use in future CPS stock assessments.

Council Task:

Consider approval of the SCCPSS for use in future stock assessments.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item D.2, Attachment 1, Methodology Review Panel Report.
2. Agenda Item D.2.a, CDFW Report.

Agenda Order:

- D.2 Final Approval of Aerial Survey Methodology Kerry Griffin
- a. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. **Council Action:** Approve Aerial Survey Methodology for Use in Coastal Pelagic Species Stock Assessments