

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON  
2018 EXEMPTED FISHING PERMITS (EFPs) – FINAL APPROVAL

The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) reviewed two revised coastal pelagic species (CPS) exempted fishing permit (EFP) proposals (Agenda Item C.2, Attachments [1](#) and [2](#)) and appreciates the efforts in addressing SSC concerns that were raised in November 2017 ([Agenda Item C.2.a, Supplemental SSC Report 1, November 2017](#)). Ms. Diane Pleschner-Steele, Mr. Mike Okoniewski, and Mr. Kirk Lynn (CDFW) were available to answer questions.

The SSC identified two issues in the California Wetfish Producers Association (CWPA) EFP ([Agenda Item C.2, Attachment 1](#)). First, an error was identified relating to the proportion of sardine observed from the 2016/17 aerial surveys. Sardine, as a proportion of sardine + anchovy, is 32% (instead of 47%) based on the numbers reported in Table 1. This correction may change the amount of sardine requested in the proposal. Secondly, the SSC requested a more detailed justification for choosing a target ( $n$ ) of 23 in Table 2. It appears operational limits are driving this choice instead of this decision being statistically driven.

The unknown proportion of biomass in the nearshore areas remains a concern. The SSC continues to support the Acoustic Trawl Methodology (ATM) review panel's recommendation of developing an independent survey to estimate the proportion of the population in the nearshore as a high priority research item.

The SSC supports the two EFPs moving forward and commends the applicants for their dedication to the continued research needed to improve biomass and variance estimates for CPS. The proposed research has the potential to investigate several long-standing issues with the Acoustic Trawl Methodology (ATM) survey.