

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON
COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES STOCK ASSESSMENT PRIORITIZATION PROCESS

The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) reviewed the Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT) report “A Stock Assessment Prioritization Process for Coastal Pelagic Species.” Dr. Kevin Hill from the Southwest Fisheries Science gave an overview of the report.

The SSC agrees with the CPSMT that determining the prioritization of stock assessments among these five species can be achieved through a less formal examination of relevant information.

Rather than engaging in a formal prioritization exercise for coastal pelagic species, it would be beneficial in the short term to examine management tradeoffs associated with conducting an assessment of the central substock of northern anchovy (CSNA) relative to the benefits of carrying out new assessments of Pacific sardine and Pacific mackerel.

The SSC noted that sufficient data may exist to assess the CSNA even if the assessment is subject to considerable uncertainty. The scientific benefit of assessing the CSNA sooner rather than later may outweigh the benefits of waiting for additional data on the CSNA.

PFMC
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