

CENTRAL SUBPOPULATION OF NORTHERN ANCHOVY NEARSHORE ESTIMATION
METHODOLOGY, FREQUENCY OF OVERFISHING LIMIT REVIEW, AND
ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES

At its April 2019 meeting, the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) considered information regarding the nearshore estimation methodologies for the central subpopulation of northern anchovy (CSNA), a potential process for developing a new overfishing limit (OFL), and a potential process and frequency for revising OFL and acceptable biological catch (ABC) values. The Council tasked members of the Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT), the Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel (CPSAS), and the Scientific and Statistical Committee's (SSC) CPS Subcommittee to work with the Southwest Fisheries Science Center to hold a meeting to discuss information and options relative to the management and science of the central subpopulation of northern anchovy (CSNA). That meeting was held October 3-4, 2019, in La Jolla, California.

Currently the CSNA is classified as a Monitored stock under the CPS Fishery Management Plan (FMP), which involves tracking trends in landings and qualitative comparison to available abundance data, but without periodic stock assessments, or periodic adjustments to target harvest levels. Based on all available data including stock status, fishery performance, and other indicators, the Council may move a Monitored stock to the Active category. The stock would then be subject to periodic stock assessments, and/or periodic adjustments of target harvest levels based on maximum sustainable yield (MSY) control rules. Although the Council is scheduled in June 2020 to consider an FMP amendment that would eliminate the Active and Monitored categories, they remain in place at this time.

The Council adopted OFL, ABC, and ACL for CSNA in November 2010, as part of Amendment 13 to the CPS FMP. The OFL was based on a long-term estimate of MSY from a bio-economic model. Those values remained in place until the current OFL was established by National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) in May 2019, as a result of the Oceana vs NMFS lawsuit. The new OFL is based on a recent three-year average biomass.

The October 3-4, 2019 meeting was not designed to generate specific values for reference points and harvest levels. Rather, was intended to develop potential approaches for a more regular review and evaluation of available information, which then could lead to adjustments in reference points, harvest levels, or management measures.

The October meeting included representatives from the above-mentioned groups. The primary objectives of the meeting were to:

1. Develop options, with specific focus on:
 - An appropriate interval for updating OFL and/or ABC levels,
 - Stock status triggers that would lead to accountability measures,
 - Data and survey sources to be used for triggers.
2. Evaluate nearshore biomass estimation methods to complement the NOAA acoustic-trawl survey.

3. Provide additional guidance on California Department of Fish & Wildlife/California Wetfish Producers Association aerial survey methodology, including variance estimations, bias correction factor, and possibly expansion into unsampled areas.

A report of the meeting (Agenda Item D.4, Attachment 1) is included in the advanced November Briefing Book materials. An updated analysis by Dr. Punt, based on additional information and requests generated during the October meeting is expected to be included in supplemental Briefing Book materials. Background documents developed prior to or during the meeting can be accessed on the Council's ftp site: <ftp://ftp.pcouncil.org/pub/CPS/CPSMtgOct2019/>.

At this meeting the Council will consider potential approaches for establishing periodic evaluation of stock status, management reference points, and accountability measures for CSNA. If the Council does eventually remove the Active and Monitored management categories, it could be important to have a structure to ensure periodic evaluation of stocks, harvest levels, and management measures.

Council Action:

1. **Consider an Appropriate Interval for Updating OFLs and/or ABCs.**
2. **Consider Stock Status Triggers that Would Lead to Accountability Measures.**
3. **Consider Methodologies for Estimating Nearshore Abundance.**
4. **Provide Further Guidance as Appropriate.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item D.4, Attachment 1: Report of the Joint Meeting of Representatives of the SSC CPS Subcommittee, the CPSMT, and the CPSAS.
2. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

- D.4 Central Subpopulation of Northern Anchovy Management Nearshore Estimation Methodology, Frequency of Overfishing Limit Review, and Accountability Measures Kerry Griffin
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. **Council Action:** Consider Methodologies for Estimating Nearshore Abundance, Consider the Frequency of Review of Overfishing Limits, and Consider Alternatives for Accountability Measures

PFMC
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