

## COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON METHODOLOGY REVIEW PLANNING

The Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT) reiterates its support of a methodology review for the Southwest Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC) Acoustic-Trawl (A-T) survey. This survey has provided an index of abundance in the sardine stock assessment model since 2011, and has not been reviewed since February 2011. The CPSMT also highlights the need to review the potential use of the survey in assessing all assemblages of CPS finfish.

The CPSMT hopes, at a minimum, the methods review will do the following:

- Discuss the following areas of improvement for the A-T survey:
  - Extending the survey's southern boundary to Mexico (Baja California)
  - Potential biases due to low population size, un-surveyed surface waters, and shallow areas near shore
  - Converting acoustic backscatter to numerical densities
  - Target strength estimation specific to local species
  - Parallel trawling operations in the field
  - Potential species ID biases due to time lag between acoustic surveys during the day and trawling at night
  - More efficient onboard sampling for sizes and ages
- Consider the utility of the survey for all members of CPS finfish assemblage
- A comprehensive review of vessel selectivity differences between the old and new survey vessels and echosounders

PFMC  
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