SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK FOR THE CENTRAL SUBPOPULATION OF NORTHERN ANCHOVY

Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT) member Gregory Krutzikowsky presented a summary of the CPSMT report on the proposed management framework for the Central Subpopulation of the Northern Anchovy (CSNA). The report includes revisions to the flowchart that details the management framework and describes potential ways to implement the management framework. The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) endorses the framework, as an improvement on the status quo. The SSC also notes that there are some caveats and ongoing research needs that deserve further research and consideration. These are addressed below.

The SSC discussed the need for further work on a Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE), as the 2018 Acoustic-Trawl Methodology (ATM) review stated that performing an MSE for CSNA was necessary before using the ATM survey to inform management decisions, as proposed in this framework. The SSC agreed that although future work on an MSE would be useful to further explore potential biases and uncertainty (species composition, target strength, fish behavior, nearshore correction, etc.) in the surveyed index of abundance, it is not required, as the essential elements of an MSE have now been completed for CSNA (Agenda Item D.4, Attachment 1, November 2019). The parameters used to inform the 2019 simulations might merit updating based on the results of a full assessment.

A question of the timely availability of data relative to the start of the fishing management year was raised. The proposed change of the fishing year start date to July 1 would allow for more rapid responses to survey biomass estimates, expected to be available by February for review and potential adoption at the April Council meeting. Changing the fishing year start date under this approach depends on the Southwest Fisheries Science Center workload and the feasibility to have a completed assessment, that includes the most recent survey estimate, available for adoption at the April Council meeting. This would primarily be an issue in years when a full assessment was required, but unanticipated delays in processing survey data could be an issue in non-assessment years. This would be less of an issue if the survey data were available before the end of the calendar year. An alternative start date between July 1 and January 1 might help to better align the availability of data in order to complete the assessment.

Finally, the SSC recommends that a stock assessment is done prior to implementing the approach outlined in the framework to ensure that the E_{MSY} value is based on the most current data. Some other parameters in the framework could change once the new assessment is done, since the information used to parameterize simulations informing the CPSMT's proposed parameters for the framework is from a very outdated assessment. Also, the SSC recommends that the framework's short-term biomass be based on survey biomass estimates directly, using the already endorsed ATM surveys, and one of the inshore correction approaches described previously (Agenda Item D.4, Attachment 1, November 2019). Uncertainties in the ATM survey biomass estimate, including but not limited to nearshore biomass, should remain a priority for further research and refinement.

PFMC
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