

ACOUSTIC TRAWL SURVEY METHODOLOGY REVIEW – FINAL APPROVAL

When new stock survey or data methodologies are developed for potential inclusion in Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) products, the Council provides a process for peer review and evaluation. Upon approval by the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) and the Council, the methodology can then be included in stock assessments or other Council products. For coastal pelagic species (CPS), the joint CPS and groundfish Terms of Reference for methodology reviews describes the review process. The acoustic-trawl methodology (ATM) was previously reviewed by a methodology review panel in 2011. The Council considered the methodology, a review panel report (Agenda Item C.3, April 2011), and SSC recommendations at the April 2011 meeting, and approved the ATM survey for use in Pacific sardine surveys.

In January 2018, the Southwest Fisheries Science Center's (SWFSC) ATM (Agenda Item C.3, Attachment 1) was reviewed by a Review Panel that included three SSC members and three members from the Council on Independent Experts. A representative from the Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT) and the Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel (CPSAS) attended as Advisers. David Crabbe attended as a Council observer. A Panel report is included as Agenda Item C.3, Attachment 2. Appended to the Panel Report is a supplemental statement by the methodology proponents (the SWFSC's ATM Team) with responses to specific portions of the Panel report, and a rebuttal to the that statement written by the Review Panel. The SSC is scheduled to review the materials, discuss the methodology, and provide comments to the Council.

At this meeting, the Council will consider the Review Panel's report, the proposed survey methodology, reports from advisory bodies and public comments; and make a determination as to approving the methodology for use in future CPS stock assessments.

Council Task:

- 1. Consider the ATM methodology, the Review Panel report, and SSC recommendations.**
- 2. Approve the ATM methodology for potential use in future stock assessments.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item C.3, Attachment 1: ATM Synthesis Report.
2. Agenda Item C.3, Attachment 2: Methodology Review Panel Report.
3. Agenda Item C.3.a, CDFW Report 1: CDFW–CWPA Coastal Pelagic Species Aerial Survey August 2017 Survey Results.
4. Agenda Item C.3.b, Public Comment 1.

Agenda Order:

- C.3 Acoustic Trawl Survey Methodology Review – Final Approval Kerry Griffin
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. **Council Action:** Approve Acoustic Trawl Survey Methodology for Potential Use in Future Assessments

PFMC
3/22/2018