

CENTRAL SUBPOPULATION OF NORTHERN ANCHOVY MANAGEMENT UPDATE

At its April 2018 meeting, the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) considered potential options and methods for updating reference points for the central subpopulation of northern anchovy (CSNA), primarily overfishing limit (OFL) and acceptable biological catch (ABC). The Council directed the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) to work with the Southwest Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC) on three tasks:

1. Determine a method to estimate the nearshore component of the stock not sampled by the Acoustic-Trawl Methodology.
2. Determine the timeline and process necessary to conduct the near-term establishment of an OFL for the CSNA stock using the methods described in the SSC report ([Agenda Item C.4.a, Supplemental SSC Report 1](#), April 2018).
3. Scope the process for recommending the frequency of revisions to OFLs and ABCs based on the potential impacts of changing reference points less frequently against potentially increased risk associated with not basing reference points on the most recent data.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) SWFSC has explored methods to generate a nearshore estimate relative to #1 above. The pending Acoustic-Trawl Survey reports include a description of methods relative to this task, and are anticipated to be available prior to the April Council meeting. For task #2, the SSC will consider a methodology developed by Dr. André Punt for establishing an E_{msy} (fishing rate at maximum sustainable yield) (Agenda Item E.4 Attachment 1). If approved by the SSC, the Council could consider this methodology for potential future use in developing an OFL for the CSNA.

A white paper (Agenda Item E.4, Attachment 2), also developed by Dr. Punt, addresses task #3. This white paper addresses trade-offs related to more frequent and less frequent assessments and associated OFL determinations.

This agenda item is not noticed as action on changing reference points for CSNA. However, the Council will provide guidance, and could choose to initiate a process to consider changes to CSNA reference points in the future. In making a decision on next steps, the Council may wish to consider other associated processes and activities including reports scheduled for consideration at the June Council meeting on management approaches for Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS) stocks. Those reports will center around CPS management categories and stock assessment prioritization. At this (April) meeting the Council is scheduled to provide further guidance on CSNA management, as appropriate.

Council Task:

- 1. Consider Materials Related to Tasks 1, 2, and 3 Above.**
- 2. Provide Further Guidance as Appropriate.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item E.4, Attachment 1, E_{msy} Methodology.
2. Agenda Item E.4, Attachment 2, White Paper on Frequency of OFL Updates.
3. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

- E.4 Central Subpopulation of Northern Anchovy Management Update Kerry Griffin
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. **Council Action:** Review Nearshore Assessment Methodologies; Provide Guidance on a Timeline, Process, and Methods for Establishing Revised Harvest Specifications

PFMC
03/20/19