

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON
CENTRAL SUBPOPULATION OF NORTHERN ANCHOVY LITIGATION RESPONSE

The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) received the Proposed Rule: Multi-Year Harvest Specifications for the Central Subpopulation of Northern Anchovy on April 5th, 2019 and had very limited time to review the proposed rule for setting multi-year harvest specifications for the Central Subpopulation of Northern Anchovy (CSNA).

The SSC notes that the proposed rule draws its E_{MSY} (exploitation rate at maximum sustainable yield) proxy of 0.239 from the September 2016 Southwest Fisheries Science Center report on the review and re-evaluation of Minimum Stock Size Thresholds (MSST) for coastal pelagic species (CPS). Although there may be more technically robust approaches available, such that described in [Agenda Item E.4, Attachment 1 - *E_{MSY} Methodology*](#), any improvement in the estimation of E_{MSY} is likely to be small compared to the uncertainty inherent in the data informing the stock-recruit analysis, assumptions inherent in the assessment, and in biomass estimates for the CSNA.

The SSC recommends that long-term biomass estimates be included in the calculation of the overfishing limit (OFL) in the proposed rule. Specifically, an acoustic trawl (AT) estimate for the spring of 2017 is available and does not suffer from the lack of spatial coverage that led to exclusion of the summer 2017 estimate. Inshore extrapolations for the 2017 and 2018 AT estimates are available, and the methodology could be extended to the 2016 estimate. Consideration should also be given to including the 2015 AT survey and earlier biomass estimates.

The buffer used in the proposed rule is the standard buffer for monitored stocks. If the OFL was updated regularly, a different value of the buffer may be more appropriate.

PFMC
04/12/19