

COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON
TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR STOCK ASSESSMENT AND
METHODOLOGY REVIEW PANELS

The Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT) and the Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel (CPSAS) discussed draft terms of reference (TOR) for both the Coastal Pelagic Species Stock Assessment and Survey Methodology reviews. The CPSAS has also reviewed the draft Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) statement. The CPSAS generally supports the recommendations of the SSC and CPSMT.

We note the need for at least three Stock Assessment Review (STAR) panels in 2011 to review new data sources from three surveys, which are developed, or are developing:

The first is the Acoustics Survey conducted by the Southwest Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC) since 2006. This will be ready for STAR review in February 2011.

The second is Satellite imagery. The Satellite photos can overlap and greatly enhance the present photographic technique in of the Aerial Survey. The principals believe this will be ready for full review at the February STAR. The SSC has offered to give guidance on the potential development of Satellite Imagery at that STAR.

The third is the California Wetfish Producers Association's (CWPA's) Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR) and Aerial Survey are presently being conducted in Southern California. This survey will be ready for review at the May Pacific mackerel STAR.

The CPSAS strongly supports STAR Panel review of all three of these surveys. Further, we believe that Satellite Imagery can be overlapped with the 2011 Aerial Survey photography to amplify the photographic data to a superior level. We believe this could be incorporated with the Aerial Survey 2011 data and be ready for full review at the September STAR Panel.

The CPSAS notes that once approved, these other surveys may be used singularly or jointly to ground-truth and enhance present survey methodology.

Some of the short and long-term benefits include:

- [1] Improved scientific understanding of the sardine resource and their migratory patterns;
- [2] Improved synoptic data collection via the use of coast wide satellite imagery;
- [3] A reduction in the coefficient of variation;
- [4] A significant increase in the economic benefits to the sardine industry and coastal communities;
- [5] Decreased pilot risk in the Aerial Survey when transecting remote areas of the coast.