

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON
FUTURE COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA AND WORKLOAD PLANNING

Groundfish Workload Planning

Mr. John DeVore briefed the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) regarding the Council's Process Improvement Committee (PIC) for the groundfish biennial specification process. The SSC will make recommendations to the Council about the PIC proposals at the April Council meeting. In general, SSC review and input on science is desired by September 2011. The SSC would like to schedule a review of the Northwest Center's IO-PAC model that is used to evaluate economic impacts of management alternatives. The SSC recommends an initial outside expert review (i.e. a desk-review) to verify adequate documentation and develop recommendations for a more in-depth review by the SSC's Economics Subcommittee. The outside desk-review would likely need to occur in August with the Economics Subcommittee review occurring between then and the September Council meeting.

The SSC discussed whether to update sigma (σ) using the current round of stock assessments. The SSC recommends that σ not be modified this year because there will be limited new information about σ from the assessments conducted this year. This will allow for more stability in the system, address workload concerns, and allow acceptable biological catches to be calculated for each assessment as it is finalized rather than waiting until all of the assessments are completed. After the completion of this assessment cycle, σ will be re-examined to determine if any changes should be made for the next cycle.

Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS) Workload Planning

CPS Methodology Review

To be able to clearly convey to the CPS Stock Assessment Teams how acoustic-trawl data should be treated in the 2011 CPS assessments, the SSC sees a need to review the results of the February 2011 CPS methodology review panel during the April Council meeting.

Pacific Sardine Stock Assessment Review (STAR) Panel

The current tentative dates of the Pacific sardine CPS STAR Panel are an issue for the proposed 2011 aerial survey because it leaves very little time for the finalization of data collection and analysis. The current dates of the sardine STAR Panel also conflict with the end of the September Council meeting. Moving this STAR Panel into the first week of October would provide more time to complete the 2011 aerial survey work, but will limit the time available to complete and review the post-STAR Panel draft of the assessment. There is a possibility that the STAR Panel report and post-STAR Panel draft will not be available in time for the November Council meeting Briefing Book. However, the SSC expects that an adequate review can be conducted under this schedule and recommends that the Pacific sardine STAR Panel occur from October 4-7, 2011.