NOAA Technical Memorandum NMFS

MAY 2019

ASSESSMENT OF THE PACIFIC SARDINE RESOURCE IN 2019 FOR U.S. MANAGEMENT IN 2019-20

Kevin T. Hill[1], Paul R. Crone[1], Juan P. Zwolinski[1, 2]

[1]Fisheries Resources Division
Southwest Fisheries Science Center
NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service
8901 La Jolla Shores Drive
La Jolla, CA 92037, USA

[2]Institute of Marine Sciences
University of California Santa Cruz
Earth and Marine Sciences Building
Santa Cruz, CA 95064, USA
(affiliated with SWFSC)

NOAA-TM-NMFS-SWFSC-615

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
Southwest Fisheries Science Center

About the NOAA Technical Memorandum series

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), organized in 1970, has evolved into an agency which establishes national policies and manages and conserves our oceanic, coastal, and atmospheric resources. An organizational element within NOAA, the Office of Fisheries is responsible for fisheries policy and the direction of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).

In addition to its formal publications, the NMFS uses the NOAA Technical Memorandum series to issue informal scientific and technical publications when complete formal review and editorial processing are not appropriate or feasible. Documents within this series, however, reflect sound professional work and may be referenced in the formal scientific and technical literature.

SWFSC Technical Memorandums are available online at the following websites:

SWFSC: https://swfsc.noaa.gov

NOAA Repository: https://repository.library.noaa.gov/

NTIS National Technical Reports Library: https://ntrl.ntis.gov/NTRL/

Accessibility information

NOAA Fisheries Southwest Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC) is committed to making our publications and supporting electronic documents accessible to individuals of all abilities. The complexity of some of SWFSC's publications, information, data, and products may make access difficult for some. If you encounter material in this document that you cannot access or use, please contact us so that we may assist you.

Phone: 858-546-7000

Recommended citation

Kevin T. Hill, Paul R. Crone, Juan P. Zwolinski. 2019. Assessment of the Pacific sardine resource in 2019 for U.S. management in 2019-20. U.S. Department of Commerce, NOAA Technical Memorandum NMFS-SWFSC-615

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACRONYMS AND DEFINITIONS

ABC	acceptable biological catch
ALT	alternative stock assessment model
AT	Acoustic-trawl survey
BC	British Columbia (Canada)
CA	California
CalCOFI	California Cooperative Oceanic Fisheries Investigations
CCA	Central California fishery
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CDFO	Canada Department of Fisheries and Oceans
CICIMAR	Centro Interdisciplinario de Ciencias Marinas
CONAPESCA	National Commission of Aquaculture and Fishing (México)
CPS	Coastal Pelagic Species
CPSAS	Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel
CPSMT	Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team
CY	calendar year
DEPM	Daily egg production method
ENS	Ensenada (México)
FMP	fishery management plan
HG	harvest guideline
INAPESCA	National Fisheries Institute (México)
Model Year	July 1 (year) to June 30 (year+1)
mt	metric tons
mmt	million metric tons
MEXCAL	southern fleet based on ENS, SCA, and CCA fishery data
MSST	minimum stock size threshold
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
NSP	Northern subpopulation of Pacific sardine, as defined by satellite oceanography data
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
ODFW	Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
OFL	overfishing limit
OR	Oregon
PNW	northern fleet based on OR, WA, and BC fishery data
PFMC	Pacific Fishery Management Council
SAFE	Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation
SCA	Southern California fishery
SCB	Southern California Bight (Pt. Conception, CA to northern Baja California)
SS	Stock Synthesis model
SSB	spawning stock biomass
SSC	Scientific and Statistical Committee
SST	sea surface temperature
STAR	Stock Assessment Review
STAT	Stock Assessment Team

SWFSC	Southwest Fisheries Science Center
TEP	Total egg production
VPA	Virtual Population Analysis
WA	Washington
WDFW	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

PREFACE

The Pacific sardine resource is assessed each year in support of the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) process of stipulating annual harvest specifications for the U.S. fishery. Presently, the assessment/management schedule for Pacific sardine is based on a full assessment conducted every three years, with an update assessment conducted in the interim years. A full stock assessment was conducted in 2017 (Hill et al. 2017; STAR 2017), and an update was conducted in 2018 (Hill et al. 2018). The following report serves as a stock assessment update for purposes of advising management for the 2019-20 fishing year. The update assessment model (ALT) included final landings from 2017, preliminary landings from 2018, a revised AT biomass estimate from 2017, and one new AT-based biomass and age composition from the summer 2018 survey.

The following report includes three primary sections: first, a timeline with background information concerning fishery operations and management associated with the Pacific sardine resource (Introduction); second, summaries for various sources of sample data used in the assessments (Data); and third, methods/models used to conduct the assessments (Assessment). The Assessment section includes two parts based on the assessment approach (survey and model). In this context, readers should first consult the section 'Assessment – Acoustic-trawl Survey, Overview,' which serves as the basis of the report, i.e., justifications regarding the STAT's preferred assessment approach. The two assessment approaches were evaluated at the formal stock assessment review (STAR) in February 2017. Readers should refer to STAR (2017) for details regarding merits and drawbacks of the assessments highlighted during the review, and final decisions from the Panel concerning both short- and long-term recommendations for adopting an assessment approach for advising management in the future. That is, while the survey-based assessment was viewed as the better long-term approach by both the STAT and STAR Panel, the Panel identified a notable shortcoming of the survey-based assessment in the short-term, given the need to forecast stock biomass one full year after the last survey observation. Both the STAT and STAR Panel agreed that the preferred survey-based assessment could be effectively implemented by shifting the fishery start date several months to minimize the time lag between the most recent survey and the official start date of the fishery, e.g., moving the start of the fishery from July 1st to January 1st would accomplish this goal. To summarize, model ALT presently represents the recommended assessment approach to adopt for the upcoming fishing year (2019-20), with a survey-based assessment that accommodates a more workable projection period recommended for subsequent fishing years.

Finally, field, laboratory, and analytical work conducted in support of the ongoing Pacific sardine assessment is the responsibility of the SWFSC and its staff, including: principal investigators (K. T. Hill, P. R. Crone, J. P. Zwolinski); and collaborators (D.A. Demer, K. Stierhoff, and D. Griffith). Principal investigators are responsible for developing assessments, presenting relevant background information, and addressing the merits/drawbacks of the two assessment approaches in the context of meeting the management goal (current estimate of stock biomass each year), which is needed for implementing an established harvest control rule policy for Pacific sardine. An inclusive list of individuals and institutions that have provided information for carrying out the Pacific sardine assessment is presented in 'Acknowledgements'.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The following Pacific sardine assessment update was conducted to inform U.S. fishery management for the cycle that begins July 1, 2019 and ends June 30, 2020. Two assessment approaches were reviewed at the STAR Panel in February 2017: an AT survey-based approach (preferred by the STAT); and a model-based assessment (model ALT). Given forecasting issues highlighted in the review (see STAR 2017 and 'Unresolved Problems and Major Uncertainties' below), the Panel ultimately recommended that management advice be based on model ALT for the 2017-18 fishing year. The following update of model ALT represents the update base model from the April 2018 update (Hill et al. 2018) with the addition of updated/new landings (2017-18), a revised AT biomass estimate for summer 2017, and one new AT-based biomass estimate and age composition from the SWFSC's summer 2017 survey. Finally, one additional recruitment deviation was estimated for the 2018 year-class.

Stock

This assessment focuses on the northern subpopulation of Pacific sardine (NSP) that ranges from northern Baja California, México to British Columbia, Canada and extends up to 300 nm offshore. In all assessments before 2014, the default approach has been to assume that all catches landed in ports from Ensenada (ENS) to British Columbia (BC) were from the northern subpopulation. There is now general scientific consensus that catches landed in the Southern California Bight (SCB, i.e., Ensenada and southern California) likely represent a mixture of the southern subpopulation (warm months) and northern subpopulation (cool months) (Felix-Uraga et al. 2004, 2005; Garcia-Morales 2012; Zwolinski et al. 2011; Demer and Zwolinski 2014). Although the ranges of the northern and southern subpopulations can overlap within the SCB, the adult spawning stocks likely move north and south in synchrony each year and do not occupy the same space simultaneously to any significant extent (Garcia-Morales 2012). Satellite oceanography data (Demer and Zwolinski 2014) were used to partition catch data from Ensenada (ENS) and southern California (SCA) ports to exclude both landings and biological compositions attributed to the southern subpopulation.

Catches

The assessment includes sardine landings (mt) from six major fishing regions: Ensenada (ENS), southern California (SCA), central California (CCA), Oregon (OR), Washington (WA), and British Columbia (BC). Total and NSP landings for each region over the modeled years/seasons are shown in **Table ES-1**.

Table ES-1. Pacific sardine landings (mt) for major fishing regions off northern Baja California (Ensenada, Mexico), the United States, and British Columbia (Canada). ENS and SCA landings are presented as totals and northern subpopulation (NSP) portions.

Calendar Yr-Sem	Model Yr-Seas	ENS Total	ENS NSP	SCA Total	SCA NSP	CCA	OR	WA	BC
2005-2	2005-1	37999.5	4396.7	16615.0	1581.4	7824.9	44316.2	6605.0	3231.4
2006-1	2005-2	17600.9	11214.6	18290.5	17117.0	2032.6	101.7	0.0	0.0
2006-2	2006-1	39636.0	0.0	18556.0	5015.7	15710.5	35546.5	4099.0	1575.4
2007-1	2006-2	13981.4	13320.0	27546.0	20567.0	6013.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
2007-2	2007-1	22865.5	11928.2	22047.2	5531.2	28768.8	42052.3	4662.5	1522.3
2008-1	2007-2	23487.8	15618.2	25098.6	24776.6	2515.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
2008-2	2008-1	43378.3	5930.0	8979.6	123.6	24195.7	22939.9	6435.2	10425.0
2009-1	2008-2	25783.2	20244.4	10166.8	9874.2	11079.9	0.0	0.0	0.0
2009-2	2009-1	30128.0	0.0	5214.1	109.3	13935.6	21481.6	8025.2	15334.3
2010-1	2009-2	12989.1	7904.2	20333.5	20333.5	2908.8	437.1	510.9	421.7
2010-2	2010-1	43831.8	9171.2	11261.2	699.2	1403.5	20414.9	11869.6	21801.3
2011-1	2010-2	18513.8	11588.5	13192.2	12958.9	2720.1	0.1	0.0	0.0
2011-2	2011-1	51822.6	17329.6	6498.9	182.5	7359.3	11023.3	8008.4	20718.8
2012-1	2011-2	10534.0	9026.1	12648.6	10491.1	3672.7	2873.9	2931.7	0.0
2012-2	2012-1	48534.6	0.0	8620.7	929.9	598.5	39744.1	32509.6	19172.0
2013-1	2012-2	13609.2	12827.9	3101.9	972.8	84.2	149.3	1421.4	0.0
2013-2	2013-1	37803.5	0.0	4997.3	110.3	811.3	27599.0	29618.9	0.0
2014-1	2013-2	12929.7	412.5	1495.2	809.3	4403.3	0.0	908.0	0.0
2014-2	2014-1	77466.3	0.0	1600.9	0.0	1830.9	7788.4	7428.4	0.0
2015-1	2014-2	16496.6	0.0	1543.2	0.0	727.7	2131.3	62.6	0.0
2015-2	2015-1	20971.9	0.0	1420.9	0.0	6.1	0.1	66.1	0.0
2016-1	2015-2	23536.7	0.0	423.4	184.8	1.1	1.4	0.0	0.0
2016-2	2016-1	42532.1	0.0	964.5	49.4	234.1	2.7	85.2	0.0
2017-1	2016-2	30496.0	9219.9	513.1	144.7	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0
2017-2	2017-1	99966.6	0.0	1205.4	0.0	170.4	1.2	0.0	0.0
2018-1	2017-2	29744.2	11241.9	395.3	197.8	0.0	2.2	0.0	0.0
2018-2	2018-1	50878.2	0.0	1464.2	0.0	35.3	5.9	2.0	0.0

Data and Assessment

The integrated assessment model was developed using Stock Synthesis (SS version 3.24aa), and includes fishery and survey data collected from mid-2005 through December 2018. The model is based on a July-June biological year (aka 'model year'), with two semester-based seasons per year (S1=Jul-Dec and S2=Jan-Jun). Catches and biological samples for the fisheries off ENS, SCA, and -CCA were pooled into a single MEXCAL fleet (fishery), for which selectivity was modeled separately in each season (S1 and S2). Catches and biological samples from OR, WA, and BC were modeled by season as a single PNW fleet (fishery). A single AT survey index of abundance from ongoing SWFSC surveys (2006-2018) was included in the model. The update assessment model (ALT) included final landings from 2017, preliminary landings from 2018, a revised biomass estimate from the summer 2017 AT survey, one new AT-based biomass and age composition from the summer 2018 survey, along with one additional recruitment deviation for estimation of the 2017 year class.

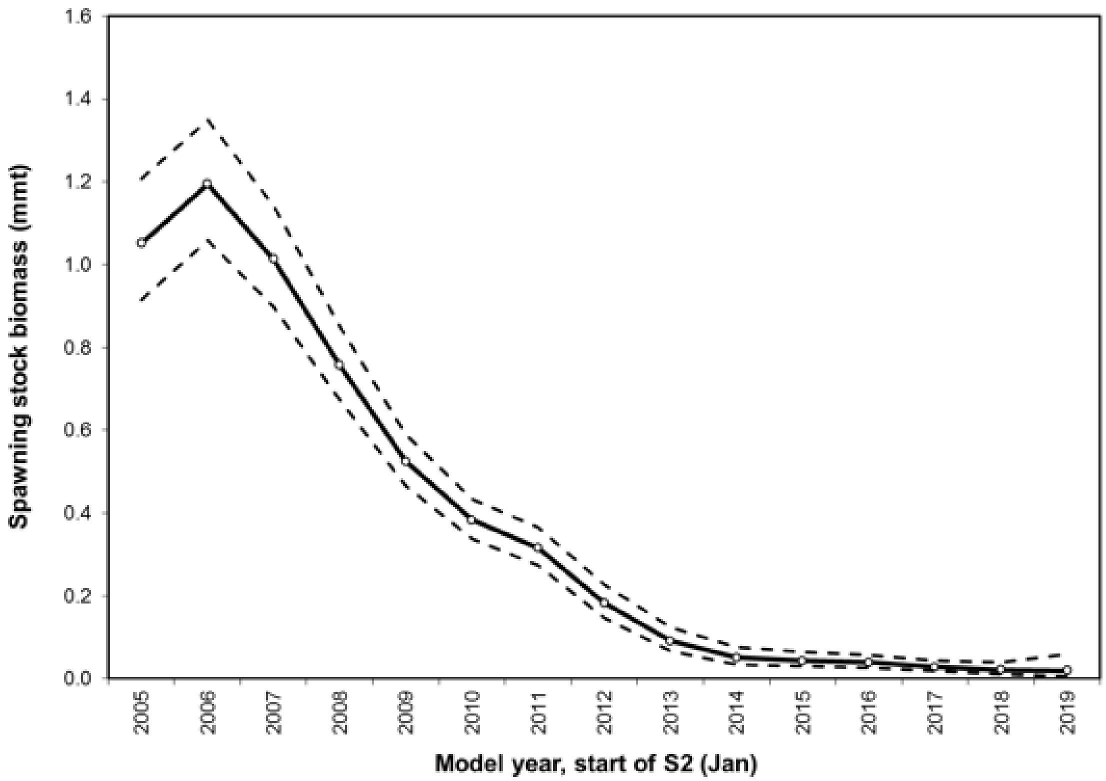
Model ALT incorporates the following specifications:

- NSP catches for the MEXCAL fleet computed using an environmental-based optimal habitat index;
- two seasons (semesters, Jul-Dec=S1 and Jan-Jun=S2) for each model year (2005-19);
- sexes were combined;
- ages in population=10, with nine age bins (ages 0-8+);
- two fleets (MEXCAL and PNW), with an annual selectivity pattern for the PNW fleet and seasonal selectivity patterns (S1 and S2) for the MEXCAL fleet;
  - MEXCAL fleet: dome-shaped, age-based selectivity (one parameter per age)
  - PNW fleet: asymptotic, age-based selectivity;
  - age compositions with effective sample sizes calculated by dividing the number of fish sampled by 25 (externally);
- Beverton-Holt stock-recruitment relationship, with virgin recruitment (R_0), steepness (h), and initial equilibrium recruitment offset (R_1) estimated, and average recruitment variability fixed (σ_R=0.75);
- M was fixed (0.6 yr^{-1});
- recruitment deviations estimated from 2005-17;
- initial fishing mortality (F) was estimated for the MEXCAL_S1 fishery and fixed=0 for MEXCAL_S2 and PNW fisheries;
- single AT survey index of abundance (2006-18) that includes seasonal (spring and summer) observations in some years, and catchability (Q) estimated;
  - age compositions with effective sample sizes set (externally) to 1 per trawl cluster;
  - selectivity was assumed to be uniform (fully selected) for age 1+ and zero for age 0;
  - a revised biomass estimate and age composition from the summer 2017 AT survey; and
  - a new biomass estimate and age composition from the summer 2018 AT survey
- no additional data weighting via variance adjustment factors or lambdas were implemented.

Spawning Stock Biomass and Recruitment

Time series of estimated spawning stock biomass (SSB, mmt) and associated 95% confidence intervals are displayed in in **Figure ES-1** and **Table ES-2**. The virgin level of SSB was estimated to be 74,466 mt. The SSB has continually declined since 2005-06, reaching low levels in recent years (2014-present). The SSB was projected to be 19,502 mt (SD=12,069 mt; CV=0.619; Sigma=0.570) in January 2020.

Time series of estimated recruitment (age-0, billions) abundance is presented in in **Figure ES-1** and **Table ES-2**. The virgin level of recruitment (R_0) was estimated to be 1.05 billion age-0 fish. As indicated for SSB above, recruitment has largely declined since 2005-06, with the exception of a brief period of modest recruitment success from 2009-10. In particular, the 2011-17 year classes have been among the weakest in recent history. A small increase in recruitment was estimated in 2018, albeit a highly uncertain estimate (CV=0.77) based on limited data.



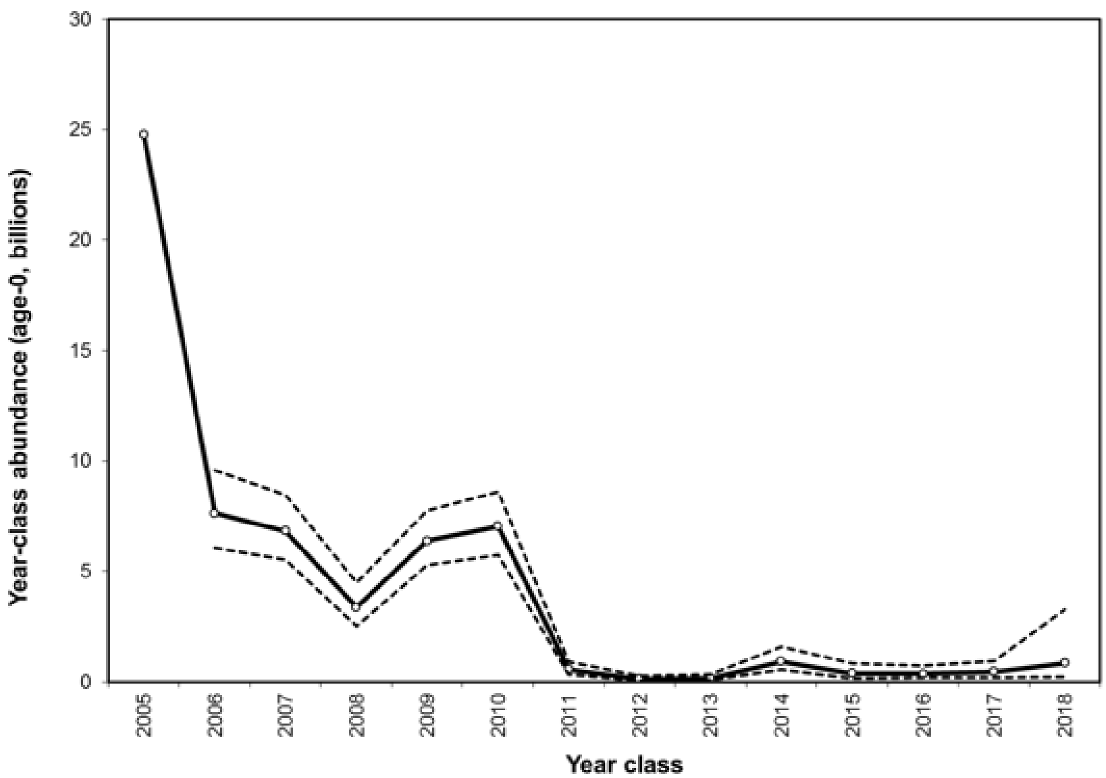


Figure ES-1. Spawning stock biomass (upper) and recruitment time series (lower) (±95% CI) for model ALT-2019.

Table ES-2. Spawning stock biomass (SSB) and recruitment (year-class abundance) estimates and asymptotic standard errors for model ALT-2019.

Calendar Yr-Sem	Model Yr-Seas	SSB (mt)	SSB Std Dev	Year class abundance (1,000s)	YC Std Dev
-	VIRG-1	-	-	1,050,620	297,748
-	VIRG-2	74,466	21,104	-	-
-	INIT-1	-	-	7,883,970	3,603,220
-	INIT-2	301,147	82,359	-	-
2005-2	2005-1	-	-	24,770,700	-
2006-1	2005-2	1,051,190	74,638	-	-
2006-2	2006-1	-	-	7,622,380	888,087
2007-1	2006-2	1,194,360	74,296	-	-
2007-2	2007-1	-	-	6,831,930	750,309
2008-1	2007-2	1,013,150	62,090	-	-
2008-2	2008-1	-	-	3,362,190	503,580
2009-1	2008-2	756,584	45,137	-	-
2009-2	2009-1	-	-	6,383,870	626,151
2010-1	2009-2	524,418	31,480	-	-
2010-2	2010-1	-	-	7,035,220	728,952
2011-1	2010-2	382,967	24,480	-	-
2011-2	2011-1	-	-	556,796	136,539
2012-1	2011-2	315,887	23,576	-	-
2012-2	2012-1	-	-	129,561	46,429
2013-1	2012-2	183,221	20,432	-	-
2013-2	2013-1	-	-	170,464	59,722
2014-1	2013-2	90,715	14,844	-	-
2014-2	2014-1	-	-	926,669	260,882
2015-1	2014-2	50,999	10,378	-	-
2015-2	2015-1	-	-	374,181	165,051
2016-1	2015-2	43,802	8,684	-	-
2016-2	2016-1	-	-	360,443	133,797
2017-1	2016-2	39,848	7,660	-	-
2017-2	2017-1	-	-	445,779	178,128
2018-1	2017-2	28,481	6,610	-	-
2018-2	2018-1	-	-	851,448	659,686
2019-1	2018-2	21,038	6,894	-	-
2019-2	2019-1	-	-	-	-
2020-1	2019-2	19,502	12,069	-	-

Stock Biomass for PFMC Management in 2019-20

Stock biomass, used for calculating annual harvest specifications, is defined as the sum of the biomass for sardine ages one and older (age 1+) at the start of the management year. Time series of estimated stock biomass (mmt) from model ALT and the AT survey are presented in the figure below. As discussed above for both SSB and recruitment, a similar trend of declining stock biomass has been observed since 2005-06, peaking at 1.76 mmt in 2006, and plateauing at recent low levels since 2014. Model ALT stock biomass is projected to be **27,547 mt in July 2019**. Pacific sardine NSP stock biomass is now below the 50,000 mt minimum stock size threshold (MSST) defined in the CPS-FMP.

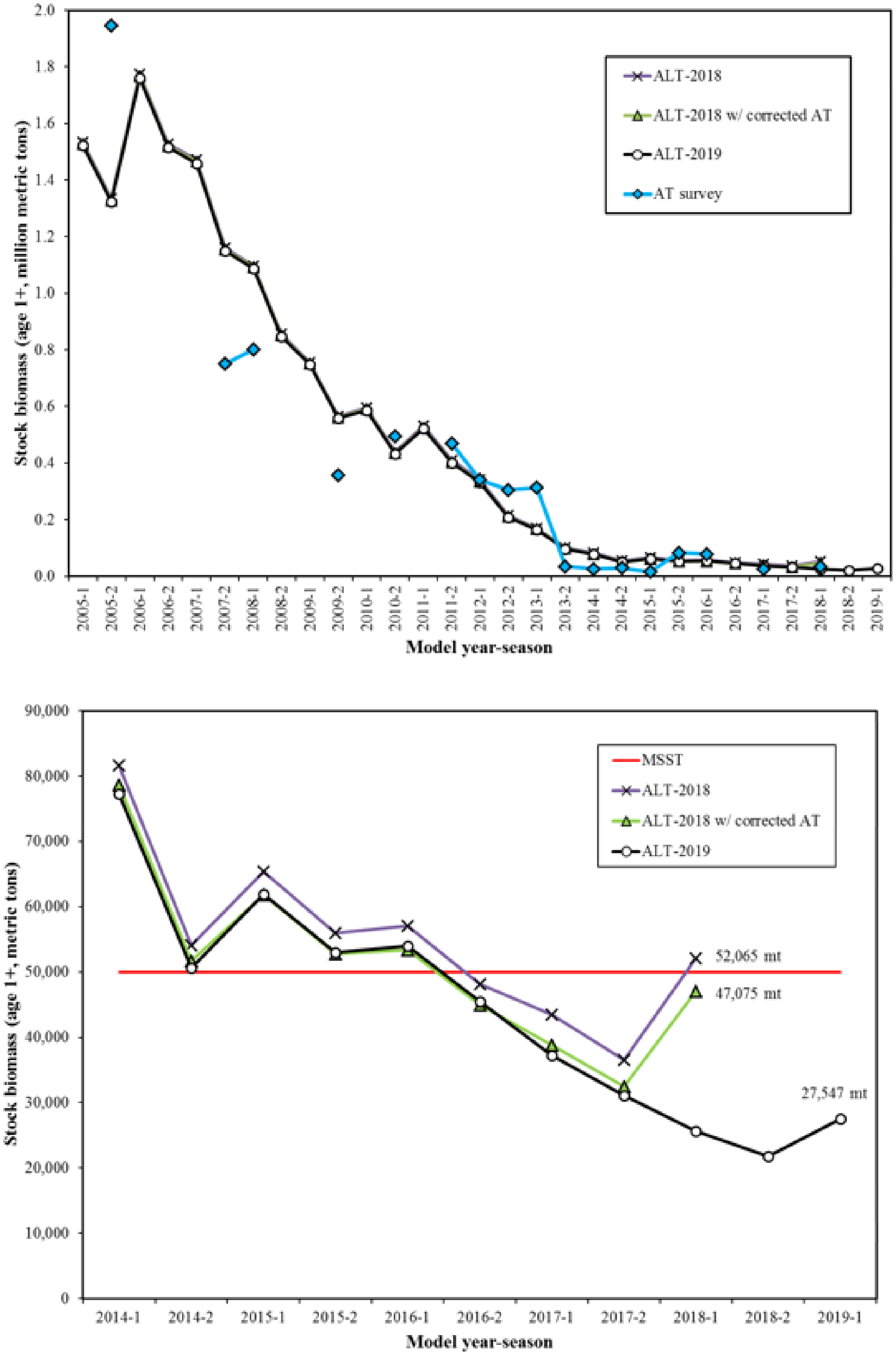


Figure ES-2. Estimated stock biomass (age 1+ fish, mt) time series for the AT survey and model ALT-2019 (upper) and 2014-19 (lower).

Exploitation Status

Exploitation rate is defined as the calendar year NSP catch divided by the total mid-year biomass (July-1, ages 0+). Based on model ALT estimates, the U.S. exploitation rate has averaged about 11% since 2005, peaking at 36.7% in 2013. The U.S. rate was <1% in 2018. The U.S. and total exploitation rates for the NSP, calculated from model ALT, are presented in Figure ES-3.

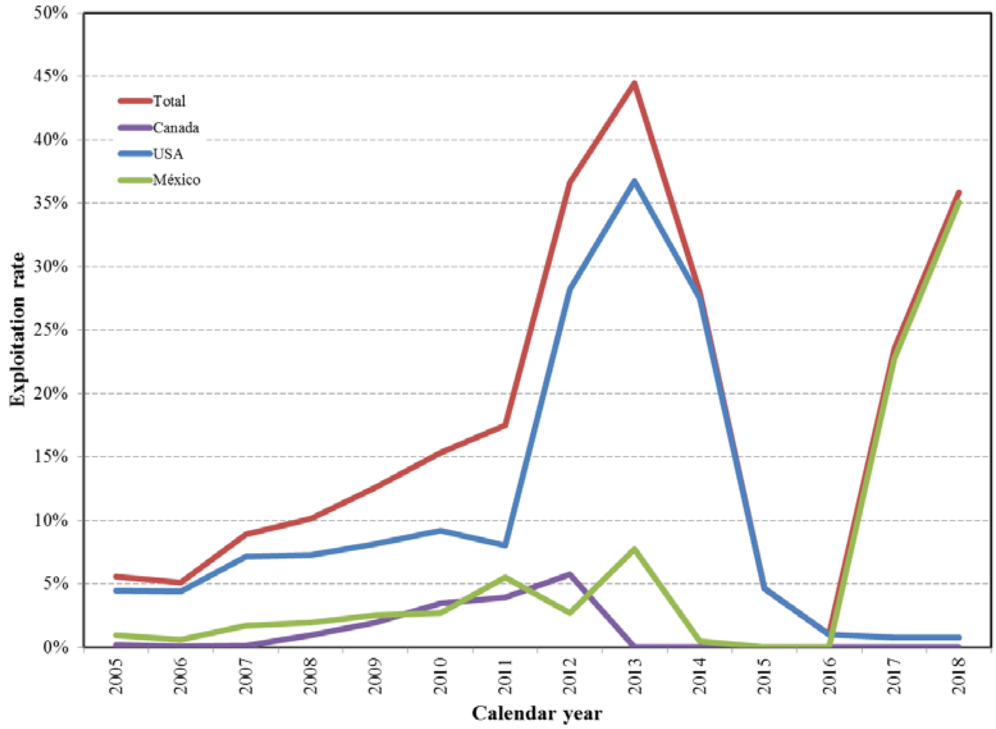


Figure ES-3. Annual exploitation rates (CY landings / July total biomass) for model ALT-2019.

Ecosystem Considerations

Pacific sardine represent an important forage base in the California Current Ecosystem (CCE). At times of high abundance, Pacific sardine can compose a substantial portion of biomass in the CCE. However, periods of low recruitment success driven by prevailing oceanographic conditions can lead to low population abundance over extended periods of time. Readers should consult PFMC (1998), PFMC (2017), and NMFS (2019a,b) for comprehensive information regarding environmental processes generally hypothesized to influence small pelagic species that inhabit the CCE.

Harvest Control Rules

Harvest guideline

The annual harvest guideline (HG) is calculated as follows:

$$HG = (BIOMASS – CUTOFF) \bullet FRACTION \bullet DISTRIBUTION;$$

where HG is the total U.S. directed harvest for the period July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020, BIOMASS is the stock biomass (ages 1+, mt) projected as of July 1, 2019, CUTOFF (150,000 mt) is the lowest level of biomass for which directed harvest is allowed, FRACTION (E_{MSY} bounded 0.05-0.20) is the percentage of biomass above the CUTOFF that can be harvested, and DISTRIBUTION (87%) is the average portion of BIOMASS assumed in U.S. waters. Based on results from model ALT, estimated stock biomass is projected to be below the 150,000 mt threshold and thus, the HG for 2019-20 would be 0 mt.

OFL and ABC

On March 11, 2014, the PFMC adopted the use of CalCOFI sea-surface temperature (SST) data for specifying environmentally-dependent E_{MSY} each year. The E_{MSY} is calculated as,

$$E_{MSY} = -18.46452+3.25209(T)-0.19723(T^2)+0.0041863(T^3),$$

where T is the three-year running average of CalCOFI SST, and E_{MSY} for OFL and ABC is bounded between 0 to 0.25. Based on the recent warmer conditions in the CCE, the average temperature for 2016-18 decreased to 16.1123 °C, resulting in E_{MSY}=0.243.

Harvest estimates for model ALT are presented in the **Table ES-3**. Estimated stock biomass in July 2019 was **27,547 mt**. The overfishing limit (OFL, 2019-20) associated with that biomass was **5,816 mt**. The SSB was projected to be 19,502 mt (SD=12,069 mt; CV=0.619) in January 2019, so the corresponding Sigma for calculating P-star buffers is 0.57 rather than the new default value (0.5) for Tier 1 assessments. Acceptable biological catches (ABC, 2019-20) for a range of *P-star* values based on the newly adopted sigma method for model ALT-2019 presented in **Table ES-3**.

Table ES-3. Harvest control rules for the 2019-20 management cycle.

Harvest Control Rule Formulas
OFL = BIOMASS * EMSY * DISTRIBUTION;   where EMSY is bounded 0.00 to 0.25
ABCP-star = BIOMASS * BUFFERP-star * EMSY * DISTRIBUTION;   where EMSY is bounded 0.00 to 0.25
HG = (BIOMASS - CUTOFF) * FRACTION * DISTRIBUTION;   where FRACTION is EMSY bounded 0.05 to 0.20

Table ES-3a. Harvest Formula Parameters

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4	Column 5	Column 6	Column 7	Column 8	Column 9	Column 10
BIOMASS (ages 1+, mt)	27,547	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
P-star	0.45	0.40	0.35	0.30	0.25	0.20	0.15	0.10	0.05
ABC Buffer$_{(Sigma\ 0.570)}$	0.93093	0.86564	0.80296	0.74181	0.68103	0.61920	0.55417	0.48196	0.39188
ABC Buffer$_{Tier\ 2}$	0.88191	0.77620	0.68023	0.59191	0.50942	0.43101	0.35472	0.27761	0.19304
CalCOFI SST (2016-2018)	16.1123	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
EMSY	0.242675	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
FRACTION	0.200000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CUTOFF (mt)	150,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
DISTRIBUTION (U.S.)	0.87	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table ES-3b. Harvest Control Rule Values (MT)

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4	Column 5	Column 6	Column 7	Column 8	Column 9	Column 10
OFL =	**5,816**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ABC$_{Tier\ 1}$ =	5,414	5,034	4,670	4,314	3,961	3,601	3,223	2,803	2,279
ABC$_{Tier\ 2}$ =	5,129	4,514	3,956	3,443	2,963	2,507	2,063	1,615	1,123
HG =	**0**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Management Performance

The U.S. HG/ACL values and catches since the onset of federal management are presented in Figure ES-4.

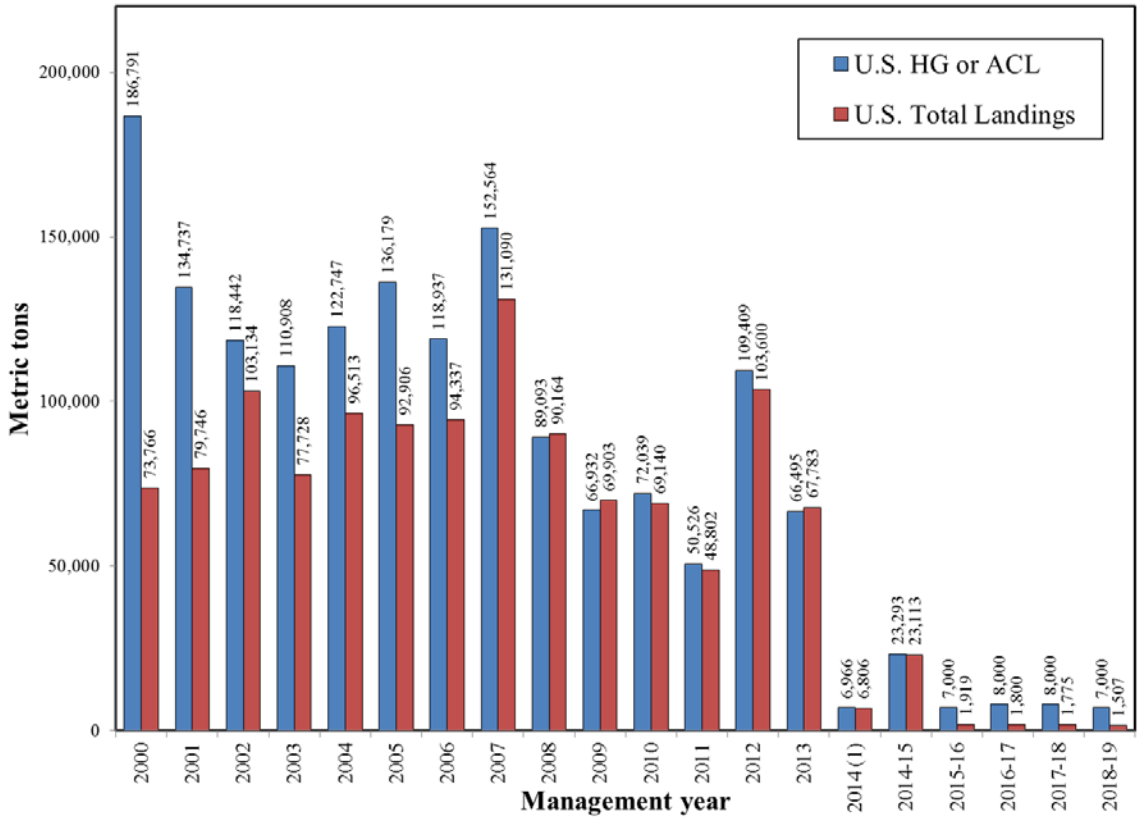


Figure ES-4. U.S. Pacific sardine HGs or ACLs and landings since 2000.

Unresolved Problems and Major Uncertainties

As indicated in the Preface above, the survey-based assessment remains the STAT's preferred approach for advising management regarding Pacific sardine abundance in the future. However, the STAR Panel identified a notable shortcoming of the survey-based assessment that would need to be addressed before adopting this approach for purposes of advising management in the future. Specifically, the issue is related to a need to forecast stock biomass one full year after the last survey observation, i.e., a time lag exists between obtaining the final estimate of stock biomass from the summer AT survey and the start date of the fishery the following year. In particular, it is inherently difficult to reliably estimate the strength of the most recent cohort (age-0 fish) from the previous summer that would be expected to contribute substantially to the age-1+ biomass the following year (e.g., projecting the 2017 year-class size/biomass into July 2018). It is important to note, recent recruitment strength will continue to represent a considerable area of uncertainty, regardless of species or assessment approach (i.e., survey- or model-based), particularly, for coastal pelagic species (e.g., sardine and anchovy) that exhibit highly variable recruitment success in any given year given their high rates of natural mortality. Both the STAT and STAR Panel agreed that uncertainty associated with the forecast needed in the survey-based assessment would be effectively minimized by simply shifting the fishery start date to reduce the time lag between the most recent survey and start date for the fishery (e.g., from July 1st to January 1st). The STAT continues to support this approach.

The STAR Panel ultimately recommended using results from model ALT for sardine management in 2017-18 and onward. The Panel identified a number of areas of uncertainty in model ALT, including: 1) best treatment of empirical weight-at-age data from the fisheries and AT survey; 2) treatment of population weight-at-age (time varying vs. time-invariant); 3) use of time-invariant age-length keys to convert AT length compositions to age compositions; 4) selectivity parameterization for the AT survey; 5) lack of empirical justification for increasing natural mortality from 0.4 to 0.6 yr^{-1}; and 6) ongoing concerns about acoustic species identification, target strength estimation, and boundary zone (sea floor, surface, and shore) observations associated with the AT survey (readers should consult sections 3 and 5 in STAR (2017) for further details).

Research and Data Needs

Research and data for improving stock assessments of the Pacific sardine resource in the future address three major areas of need, including AT survey operations, biological data sampling from fisheries, and laboratory-based biology studies (see Research and Data Needs below for further discussion regarding areas of improvement).

INTRODUCTION

Distribution, Migration, Stock Structure, Management Units

Information regarding Pacific sardine (*Sardinops sagax caerulea*) biology and population dynamics is available in Clark and Marr (1955), Ahlstrom (1960), Murphy (1966), MacCall (1979), Leet et al. (2001), as well as references cited below.

The Pacific sardine has at times been the most abundant fish species in the California Current Ecosystem (CCE). When the population is large, it is abundant from the tip of Baja California (23ºN latitude) to southeastern Alaska (57ºN latitude) and throughout the Gulf of California. Occurrence tends to be seasonal in the northern extent of its range. When abundance was low during the 1960-70s, sardines did not generally occur in significant quantities north of Baja California.

There is a longstanding consensus in the scientific community that sardines off the west coast of North America represent three subpopulations (see review by Smith 2005). A northern subpopulation ('NSP'; northern Baja California to Alaska; Figure 1), a southern subpopulation ('SSP'; outer coastal Baja California to southern California), and a Gulf of California subpopulation were distinguished on the basis of serological techniques (Vrooman 1964) and in studies of oceanography as pertaining to temperature-at-capture (Felix-Uraga et al., 2004, 2005; Garcia-Morales et al. 2012; Demer and Zwolinski 2014). An electrophoretic study (Hedgecock et al. 1989) showed, however, no genetic variation among sardines from central and southern California, the Pacific coast of Baja California, or the Gulf of California. Although the ranges of the northern and southern subpopulations can overlap within the Southern California Bight, the adult spawning stocks likely move north and south in synchrony and do not occupy the same space simultaneously to a significant extent (Garcia-Morales 2012). The northern subpopulation (NSP) is exploited by fisheries off Canada, the U.S., and northern Baja California (Figure 1), and represents the stock included in the CPS Fishery Management Plan (CPS-FMP; PFMC 1998). The 2014 assessment (Hill et al. 2014) addressed the above stock structure hypotheses in a more explicit manner, by partitioning southern (ENS and SCA ports) fishery catches and composition data using an environment-based approach described by Demer and Zwolinski (2014) and in the following sections. The same subpopulation hypothesis is carried forward in the following assessment.

Pacific sardine migrate extensively when abundance is high, moving as far north as British Columbia in the summer and returning to southern California and northern Baja California in the fall. Early tagging studies indicated that the older and larger fish moved farther north (Janssen 1938; Clark & Janssen 1945). Movement patterns were probably complex, and the timing and extent of movement were affected by oceanographic conditions (Hart 1973) and stock biomass levels. During the 1950s to 1970s, a period of reduced stock size and unfavorably cold sea-surface temperatures together likely caused the stock to abandon the northern portion of its range. In recent decades, the combination of increased stock size and warmer sea-surface temperatures resulted in the stock re-occupying areas off Central California, Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia, as well as distant offshore waters off California. During a cooperative U.S.-U.S.S.R. research cruise for jack mackerel in 1991, several tons of sardine were collected 300 nm west of the

Southern California Bight (SCB) (Macewicz and Abramenkoff 1993). Resumption of seasonal movement between the southern spawning habitat and the northern feeding habitat has been inferred by presence/absence of size classes in focused regional surveys (Lo et al. 2011) and measured directly using the acoustic-trawl method (Demer et al. 2012).

Life History Features Affecting Management

Pacific sardines may reach 41 cm in length (Eschmeyer et al. 1983), but are seldom longer than 30 cm in fishery catches and survey samples. The heaviest sardine on record weighed 0.323 kg. Oldest recorded age of sardine is 15 years, but fish in California commercial catches are usually younger than five years and fish in the PNW are less than 10 years old. Sardine are typically larger and two to three years older in regions off the Pacific Northwest than observed further south in waters off California. There is evidence for regional variation in size-at-age, with size increasing from south to north and from inshore to offshore (Phillips 1948, Hill 1999). McDaniel et al. (2016) analyzed recent fishery and survey data and found evidence for age-based (as opposed to size-based) movement from inshore to offshore and from south to north.

Historically, sardines fully recruited to the fishery when they were ages three and older (MacCall 1979). Recent fishery data indicate that sardines begin to recruit to the SCA fishery at age zero during the late winter-early spring. Age-dependent availability to the fishery depends upon the location of the fishery, with young fish unlikely to be fully available to fisheries located in the north and older fish less likely to be fully available to fisheries south of Point Conception.

Sardines spawn in loosely aggregated schools in the upper 50 meters of the water column. Sardines are oviparous, multiple-batch spawners, with annual fecundity that is indeterminate, and age- or size-dependent (Macewicz et al. 1996). Spawning of the northern subpopulation typically begins in January off northern Baja California and ends by August off the Pacific Northwest (Oregon, Washington, and Vancouver Island), typically peaking off California in April. Sardine eggs are most abundant at sea-surface temperatures of 13 to 15 ºC, and larvae are most abundant at 13 to 16 ºC. The spatial and seasonal distribution of spawning is influenced by temperature. During warm ocean conditions, the center of sardine spawning shifts northward and spawning extends over a longer period of time (Butler 1987; Ahlstrom 1960; Dorval et al. 2016, 2017). Spawning is typically concentrated in the region offshore and north of Point Conception (Lo et al. 1996, 2005) to areas off San Francisco. However, during April 2015 and 2016 spawning was observed in areas north of Cape Mendocino to central Oregon (Dorval et al. 2016; Dorval et al. 2017 in Appendix A).

Ecosystem Considerations

Pacific sardine represent an important forage base in the California Current Ecosystem (CCE). At times of high abundance, Pacific sardine can compose a substantial portion of biomass in the CCE. However, periods of low recruitment success driven by prevailing oceanographic conditions can lead to low population abundance over extended periods of time. Readers should consult PFMC (1998), PFMC (2017), and NMFS (2019a,b) for comprehensive information regarding environmental processes generally hypothesized to influence small pelagic species that inhabit the CCE.

Abundance, Recruitment, and Population Dynamics

Extreme natural variability is characteristic of clupeid stocks, such as Pacific sardine (Cushing 1971). Estimates of sardine abundance from as early as 300 AD through 1970 have been reconstructed from the deposition of fish scales in sediment cores from the Santa Barbara basin off SCA (Soutar and Issacs 1969, 1974; Baumgartner et al. 1992; McClatchie et al. 2017). Sardine populations existed throughout the period, with abundance varying widely on decadal time scales. Both sardine and anchovy populations tend to vary over periods of roughly 60 years, although sardines have varied more than anchovies. Declines in sardine populations have generally lasted an average of 36 years and recoveries an average of 30 years.

Pacific sardine spawning biomass (age 2+), estimated from virtual population analysis methods, averaged 3.5 mmt from 1932 through 1934, fluctuated from 1.2 to 2.8 mmt over the next ten years, then declined steeply from 1945 to 1965, with some short-term reversals following periods of strong recruitment success (Murphy 1966; MacCall 1979). During the 1960s and 1970s, spawning biomass levels were as low as 10,000 mt (Barnes et al. 1992). The sardine stock began to increase by an average annual rate of 27% in the early 1980s (Barnes et al. 1992).

As exhibited by many members of the small pelagic fish assemblage of the CCE, Pacific sardine recruitment is highly variable, with large fluctuations observed over short timeframes. Analyses of the sardine stock-recruitment relationship have resulted in inconsistent findings, with some studies showing a strong density-dependent relationship (production of young sardine declines at high levels of spawning biomass) and others, concluding no relationship (Clark and Marr 1955; Murphy 1966; MacCall 1979). Jacobson and MacCall (1995) found both density-dependent and environmental factors to be important, as was also agreed during a sardine harvest control rule workshop held in 2013 (PFMC 2013). The current U.S. harvest control rules for sardine couple prevailing SST to exploitation rate (see *Harvest Control Rules* section).

Relevant History of the Fishery and Important Features of the Current Fishery

The sardine fishery was first developed in response to demand for food during World War I. Landings increased rapidly from 1916 to 1936, peaking at over 700,000 mt. Pacific sardine supported the largest fishery in the western hemisphere during the 1930s and 1940s, with landings in Mexico to Canada. The population and fishery soon declined, beginning in the late 1940s and with some short-term reversals, to extremely low levels in the 1970s. There was a southward shift in catch as the fishery collapsed, with landings ceasing in the Pacific Northwest in 1947 through 1948 and in San Francisco, from 1951 through 1952. The San Pedro fishery closed in the mid-1960s. Sardines were primarily reduced to fish meal, oil, and canned food, with small quantities used for bait.

In the early 1980s, sardines were taken incidentally with Pacific and jack mackerel in the SCA mackerel fishery. As sardine continued to increase in abundance, a directed purse-seine fishery was re-established. The incidental fishery for sardines ceased in 1991 when the directed fishery was offered higher quotas. The renewed fishery initiated in ENS and SCA, expanded to CCA, and by the early 2000s, substantial quantities of Pacific sardine were landed at OR, WA, and BC. Volumes have reduced dramatically in the past several years. Harvest by the Mexican (ENS) fishery is not currently regulated by quotas, but there is a minimum legal size limit of 150 mm SL. The Canadian fishery failed to capture sardine in summer 2013, and has been under a moratorium since summer 2015. The U.S. directed fishery has been subject to a moratorium since July 1, 2015.

Recent Management Performance

Management authority for the U.S. Pacific sardine fishery was transferred to the PFMC in January 2000. The Pacific sardine was one of five species included in the federal CPS-FMP (PFMC 1998). The CPS-FMP includes harvest control rules intended to prevent Pacific sardines from being overfished and to maintain relatively high and consistent, long-term catch levels. Harvest control rules for Pacific sardine are described at the end of this report. A thorough description of PFMC management actions for sardines, including HG values, may be found in the most recent CPS SAFE document (PFMC 2017). U.S. harvest specifications and landings since 2000 are displayed in Table 1 and Figure 2. Harvests in major fishing regions from ENS to BC are provided in Table 2 and Figure 3.

ASSESSMENT DATA

Biological Parameters

Stock structure

We presume to model the NSP that, at times, ranges from northern Baja California, México to British Columbia, Canada. As mentioned above, there is general consensus that catches landed in ENS and SCA likely represent a mixture of SSP (during warm months) and NSP (cool months) (Felix-Uraga et al. 2004, 2005; Garcia-Morales 2012; Zwolinski et al. 2011; Demer and Zwolinski 2014) (Figure 1). The approach involves analyzing satellite oceanographic data to objectively partition monthly catches and biological compositions from ENS and SCA ports to exclude data from the SSP (Demer and Zwolinski 2014). This approach was first adopted in the 2014 full assessment (Hill et al. 2014; STAR 2014) and has carried forward each year, including this assessment.

Growth

Previous analysis of size-at-age from fishery samples (1993-2013) provided no indication of sexual dimorphism related to growth (Figure 4; Hill et al. 2014), so combined sexes were included in the present assessment model with a sex ratio of 50:50.

Past Pacific sardine stock assessments conducted with the CANSAR and ASAP statistical catch-at-age frameworks accounted for growth using empirical weight-at-age time series as fixed model inputs (e.g. Hill et al. 1999; Hill et al. 2006). Stock synthesis models used for management from 2007 through 2016 estimated growth internally using conditional age-at-length compositions and a fixed length-weight relationship (e.g., Hill et al. 2016). Disadvantages to estimating growth internally within the stock assessment include: 1) inability to account for regional differences in age-at-size due to age-based movements (McDaniel et al. 2016); 2) difficulty in modeling cohort-specific growth patterns; 3) potential model interactions between growth estimation and selectivity; and 4) models using conditional age-at-length data are data-heavy, requiring more estimable model parameters than the empirical weight-at-age approach. For these reasons, the model ALT was constructed to bypass growth estimation internally in SS, instead opting for a return to the use of empirical weights-at-age.

Empirical weight-at-age data were included as fixed inputs in model ALT. Fleet- and survey-specific empirical weight-at-age estimates were compiled for each model year and semester. Fishery mean weight-at-age estimates were calculated for seasons with greater than two samples available. Growth patterns were examined by cohort and were smoothed as needed. Specifically, fish of the same cohort were not allowed to shrink in subsequent time steps, and negative deviations were substituted by interpolation. Likewise, missing values were substituted through interpolation. Further details regarding empirical weight-at-age time series for the AT survey are provided in the section 'Fishery-Independent Data \ Acoustic-trawl survey'. All fishery and AT survey weight-at-age vectors are displayed in Figures 5-7. During the STAR Panel (Feb 2017), it was discovered that PNW weight-at-age had not been smoothed by cohort as described above, but instead were input as nominal estimates of weight-at-age. A sensitivity run based on cohort-smoothed PNW data resulted in a negligible impact (<1%) on population estimates, i.e., revised weight-at-age matrix was not included in the final model ALT.

Empirical weight-at-age models require population weight-at-age vectors to convert population number-at-age to biomass-at-age. Model ALT population weight-at-age vectors were derived from the last assessment model (T_2016) after it had been updated with newly available maturity, catch, and survey data (T_2017). Model T_2017 was run once to derive estimates of population weight-at-age at the beginning and middle of each semester. A fecundity*maturity-at-age vector, used to calculate SSB-at-age, was also derived from model T_2017 (see 'Maturity' below). Population- and SSB-at-age vectors are displayed in Figure 8.

Maturity

Maturity was modeled using a fixed vector of fecundity*maturity by age (Figure 8). The vector was derived from the 2016 assessment model after it was updated with newly available information (T_2017). In addition to other data sources, model T_2017 was updated with new parameters for the logistic maturity-at-length function using female sardine sampled from survey trawls conducted from 1994 to 2016 (n=4,561)(Hill et al. 2017). Reproductive state was primarily established through histological examination, although some immature individuals were simply identified through gross visual inspection. Parameters for the logistic maturity function were estimated using,

$$\text{Maturity} = 1/(1+\exp(slope*L-L_{\text{inflexion}}));$$

where slope = -0.9051 and inflexion = 16.06 cm-SL. Maturity-at-length parameters were fixed in the updated assessment model (T_2017) and fecundity was fixed at 1 egg/gram body weight. Once model T_2017 was run, the fecundity*maturity-at-age vector was extracted for use in the current alternative assessment model (ALT) (Figure 8).

Natural mortality

Age-specific mortality estimates are available for the entire suite of life history stages (Butler et al. 1993). Mortality is high at the egg and yolk sac larvae stages (instantaneous rates in excess of

0.66 d^{-1}). The adult natural mortality rate has been estimated to be M=0.4-0.8 yr^{-1} (Murphy 1966; MacCall 1979) and 0.51 yr^{-1} (Clark and Marr 1955). Zwolinski and Demer (2013) studied natural mortality using trends in abundance from the acoustic-trawl method (ATM) surveys (2006-2011), accounting for fishery removals, and estimated M=0.52 yr^{-1}.

Murphy's (1966) virtual population analysis of the Pacific sardine used M=0.4 yr^{-1} to fit data from the 1930s and 1940s, but M was doubled to 0.8 yr^{-1} from 1950 to 1960 to better fit the trend in CalCOFI egg and larval data (Murphy 1966). Early natural mortality estimates may not be as applicable to the present population, given the significant increase in predator populations since the historic era (Vetter and McClatchie, *in review*). Until 2017, Pacific sardine stock assessments for PFMC management used M=0.4 yr^{-1}. For reasons explained subsequently, the present alternative assessment (model ALT) was conducted using M=0.6 yr^{-1}. An instantaneous M rate of 0.6 yr^{-1} translates to an annual M rate of 45% of the adult sardine stock dying each year from natural causes.

Fishery-dependent Data

Overview

Available fishery data include commercial landings and biological samples from six regional fisheries: Ensenada (ENS); Southern California (SCA); Central California (CCA); Oregon (OR); Washington (WA); and British Columbia (BC). Standard biological samples include individual weight (kg), standard length (cm), sex, maturity, and otoliths for age determination (not in all cases). A complete list of available port sample data by fishing region, model year, and season is provided in Table 3.

All fishery catches and compositions were compiled based on the sardine's biological year ('model year') to match the July 1st birth-date assumption used in age assignments. Each model year is labeled with the first of two calendar years spanned (e.g., model year '2005' includes data from July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006). Further, each model year has two six-month seasons, including 'S1'=Jul-Dec and 'S2'=Jan-Jun. Major fishery regions were pooled to represent a southern 'MEXCAL' fleet (ENS+SCA+CCA) and a northern 'PNW' fleet (OR+WA+BC). The MEXCAL fleet was treated with semester-based selectivities ('MEXCAL_S1' and 'MEXCAL_S2'). Rationale for this fleet design is provided in Hill et al. (2011).

The 2019 update model was modified to include final landings from 2017 and preliminary landings from 2018 (Tables 3 and 4). No changes were made to fishery age compositions because the directed fishery remained closed and the live bait fishery was not sampled for size or age.

Landings

Final Ensenada monthly landings from 2003-17 were taken from CONAPESCA's web archive of Mexican fishery yearbook statistics (CONAPESCA 2018). Preliminary ENS monthly landings for 2018 were provided by INAPESCA (Concepción Enciso-Enciso, pers. comm.).

California (SCA and CCA) commercial landings were obtained from the PacFIN database (2005-2017) and CDFW's 'Wetfish Tables' (2018). Given California's live bait industry is currently the only active sector in the U.S. sardine fishery, live bait landings were also included in this assessment. California live bait landings are recorded on 'Live Bait Logbooks' provided to the CDFW on a voluntary basis. The CDFW compiles estimates of catch weight based on a conversion of scoop number to kg (Kirk Lynn, CDFW, pers. comm.). Monthly live bait landings were pooled with other commercial catches in the MEXCAL fleet.

Oregon (OR) and Washington (WA) landings (2005-18) were obtained from PacFIN. British Columbia (BC) monthly landing statistics (2005-12) were provided by CDFO (Linnea Flostrand and Jordan Mah, pers. comm.). Sardine were not landed in Canada during 2013-18. The BC landings were pooled with OR and WA as part of the PNW fleet.

Available information concerning bycatch and discard mortality of Pacific sardine, as well as other members of the small pelagic fish assemblage of the California Current Ecosystem, is presented in PFMC (2017). Limited information from observer programs implemented in the past indicated minimal discard of Pacific sardine in the commercial purse seine fishery that targets the small pelagic fish assemblage off the USA Pacific coast.

As stated above, satellite oceanography data were used to characterize ocean climate (SST) within typical fishing zones off Ensenada and Southern California and attribute monthly catch for each fishery to either the southern (SSP) or northern subpopulation (NSP). The NSP landings by model year-season for each fishing region (ENS and SCA) are presented in Table 2 and Figure 3. The current Stock Synthesis model aggregates regional fisheries into a southern 'MEXCAL' fleet and a northern 'PNW' fleet (Figure 1). Landings aggregated by model year-season and fleet are presented in Table 4 and Figure 9.

Age compositions

Age compositions for each fleet and season were the sums of catch-weighted age observations, with monthly landings within each port and season serving as the weighting unit. As indicated above, environmental criteria used to assign landings to subpopulations were also applied to monthly port samples to categorize NSP-based biological compositions.

Age-composition data were partitioned into 9 age bins, representing ages 0 through 8+. Total numbers for ages observed in each fleet-semester stratum were divided by the typical number of fish collected per sampled load (25 fish per sample) to set the sample sizes for compositions included in the assessment model. Seasons with fewer than three samples were excluded from the model. Age compositions were input as proportions. Age-composition time series are presented in Figures 10-12.

Oregon and Washington fishery ages from season 2 (S2, Jan-Jun), were omitted from all models due to inter-laboratory inconsistencies in the application of birth-date criteria during this semester (noting that OR and WA landings and associated samples during S2 are typically trivial). Age data were not available for the BC or ENS fisheries, so PNW and MEXCAL fleet compositions only represent catch-at-age by the OR-WA and CA fisheries, respectively.

Ageing error
Sardine ageing using otolith methods was first described by Walford and Mosher (1943) and extended by Yaremko (1996). Pacific sardines are routinely aged by fishery biologists in CDFW, WDFW, and SWFSC using annuli enumerated in whole sagittae. A birth date of July 1st is assumed when assigning ages.

Ageing-error vectors for fishery data were unchanged from Hill et al. (2011-2017). Ageing error vectors (SD at true age) were linked to fishery-specific age-composition data (Figure 13). For complete details regarding age-reading data sets, model development and assumptions, see Hill et al. (2011, Appendix 2), as well as Dorval et al. (2013).

Fishery-independent Data

Overview
This assessment uses a single time series of biomass based on the SWFSC's acoustic-trawl (AT) survey. This survey and estimation methods were vetted through formal methodology review processes in February 2011 and January 2018 (PFMC 2011, Simmonds 2011; PFMC 2018).

Acoustic-trawl survey
The AT time series is based on SWFSC surveys conducted along the Pacific coast since 2006 (Cutter and Demer 2008; Zwolinski et al. 2011, 2012, 2014, 2016, Demer et al. 2012, and Zwolinski et al. *in press*). The AT survey and estimation methods were reviewed by a panel of independent experts in February 2011 (PFMC 2011) and January 2018 (PFMC 2018) and the results from these surveys have been included in the assessment since 2011 (Hill et al. 2011-2018).

The 2018 sardine assessment update (Hill et al. 2018) included a point estimate of biomass (36,644 mt) and age composition from the summer 2017 AT survey. During the course of preparing a NOAA Technical Memorandum regarding that survey (Zwolinski et al. *in press*), the analysts discovered a error in the depth range used for calculation of the integrated CPS backscatter. The appropriate depth/potential habitat filters have since been applied, and the revised 2017 biomass estimate (24,349 mt) and age composition has been included in this assessment update. See '*Revised Summer 2017 Biomass Estimate*' below for further discussion.

One new AT-based biomass estimate and age composition from the summer 2018 survey spanning northern Vancouver Island, Canada, to San Diego, California, was included in this assessment update. The biomass estimate and associated size distributions from the 2018 summer survey are described in the following section 'Assessment – Acoustic Trawl Survey' and Demer et al. (*in preparation*). The biomass estimate from the summer 2018 survey, 35,501 (CV=73%) mt was slightly higher than the estimate from 2017 (Table 5, Figure 17).

The time series of AT biomass estimates is presented in Table 5 and Figure 17. In order to comply with the model ALT formulation, estimates of abundance at length (Figure 12a) were converted into abundance-at-age (Figure 12a) using seasonal (spring/summer) age-length keys constructed from survey age data from 2006 to 2016. Age data from summer 2017 were considered unsuitable for use in the age-length key (Hill et al. 2018), and no new ages were available from summer 2018. Age-length keys were constructed for each survey season using the function 'multinom' from the R package 'nnet'. The 'nnet' function fits a multinomial log-linear model using neural networks. The response is a discrete probability distribution of age-at-length. The AT survey biomass estimates (2006-2018) were used as a single time-series, with *q* being estimated. Age compositions were fit using asymptotic age-selectivity (ages 1+ fully selected; SS age selectivity option 10) which was fixed for the entire time series. Empirical weight-at-age time series (Figure 7) were calculated for every survey using the following process: 1) The AT-derived abundance-at-length was converted to biomass-at-length using a time-invariant length-to-weight relationship; 2) The biomass- and numbers-at-length were converted to biomass-at-age and numbers-at-age, respectively, using the above-mentioned age-length key; 3) mean weights-at-age were calculated by dividing biomass-at-age by the respective numbers-at-age.

ASSESSMENT – ACOUSTIC-TRAWL SURVEY

Overview

Current management of the Pacific sardine population inhabiting the California Current of the northeast Pacific Ocean relies on an estimate of stock biomass (age-1+ fish in mt), which is needed for implementing an established harvest control rule policy for this species on an annual basis. It is important to note that the stock assessment team (STAT) recommended that the preferred assessment approach for meeting the management goal was to use results from the acoustic-trawl (AT) survey alone, i.e., not results from an integrated population dynamics model (see Preface above). For purposes of conducting the formal stock assessment review (STAR) in February 2017, methods and results from both the survey-based (AT) and model-based (ALT) approaches were presented in the assessment report distributed for review purposes at the meeting. The assessment report presented here is similar to the 2017 assessment, including the STAT's criteria for choosing an assessment approach for advising management of Pacific sardine in the future, as well as data, parameterizations, and results associated with the two assessment approaches.

Merits of AT survey-based assessment

The AT survey employs objective sampling methods based on state-of-the-art echosounder equipment and an expansive data collection design in the field (Zwolinski et al. 2014). Stock assessments since 2011 indicate that the survey produces the strongest signal of Pacific sardine biomass available for assessing absolute abundance of the stock on an annual basis (i.e., management goal, see Overview above). The survey design is based on an optimal habitat index (Zwolinski et al. 2011), established catchability ($Q\approx1.0$), and commitment to long-term support. Biomass estimates produced by the survey are primarily subjected to random sampling variability and not affected by uncertainty surrounding poorly understood population processes that must be addressed to varying degrees when fitting population dynamics models, simple or complex.

Drawbacks of model-based assessment
In the context of meeting the management goal, a model-based assessment includes considerable additional uncertainty in recent estimated stock biomass of Pacific sardine, given the need to explicitly model critical stock parameters in the assessment that is unnecessary using a survey-based assessment approach. For example, uncertainty surrounding natural mortality (*M*), recruitment variability (stock-recruitment relationship), biology (longevity, maturity, and growth), and particularly, selectivity, which can substantially influence bottom-line results useful to management. That is, the model-based assessment necessarily includes additional structural and process error, given varying degrees of bias associated with sample data and parameter misspecifications in the model. Further, addressing potential improvements to the AT survey methods and/or design over time (e.g., varying catchability, *Q*) is less straightforward and more problematic in a model-based assessment approach than basing the formal assessment on the estimate of stock biomass produced from the AT survey each year. Finally, including additional sources of data necessarily degrades the influence of the highest quality data available in the integrated model (AT survey abundance index) for determining recent stock biomass.

Additional assessment considerations
Employing a survey-based assessment approach requires projecting estimated stock biomass from the AT survey to the beginning of the new management year (also required for the model-based approach), given the survey/assessment/review/management schedule. Currently, management stipulations are set roughly one year following the last year of sample data available for assessing the stock. The Pacific sardine stock assessment reviews (STAR) are conducted early in the year (e.g., February 2017) for applying new management stipulations for the upcoming 'fishing year' (2017-18). Thus, under the current system, the AT survey biomass estimated in the most recent summer would either need to be projected one full year ahead to the following summer, or the management cycle could be returned to a January start date to negate the need for predicting strength of the most recent year class (see Preface above).

Second, the integrated model (e.g., model ALT) should be maintained along with the survey-based assessment to evaluate stock parameters of interest, including the stock-recruitment relationship and recent estimates of recruitment, age/length structure of the population, catches and fishing intensity, etc., to use in the unlikely event that the AT survey is unable to be conducted in a particular year.

Methods

A summary of the results of the most recent AT survey cruise conducted in summer 2018 is presented in this report. Detailed methods and results for the survey are currently being prepared for publication (Demer et al. *in preparation*). Methods and sampling designs in the field have been generally similar since the survey was first employed in 2006 (model year 2005), noting that changes to areas surveyed occurred seasonally and annually, given the environmental-based optimal habitat index used to select actual transect lines each year. Readers should consult Zwolinski et al. (2014) and Zwolinski et al. (2016) for survey cruises conducted in past years.

The 2018 summer survey was conducted onboard the NOAA Fisheries Survey Vessel (FSV) *Reuben Lasker*. Acoustic data were collected during the day to allow sampling of fish schools aggregated throughout the surface mixed layer. Trawling was conducted during the night to sample fish dispersed near the surface (Mais 1974). The summer 2018 survey occurred over 80 days at sea (26 June through 23 September 2018), and transects spanned the west coast of the U.S. and Canada, from the northern end of Vancouver Island to San Diego (Figure 14). Further details on echosounder calibrations, survey design, and sampling protocols will be detailed in Demer et al. (*in preparation*).

Acoustic data from each transect were processed using estimates of sound speed and absorption coefficients calculated with contemporary data from Conductivity-Temperature-Depth (CTD) probes. Echoes from schooling CPS were identified with a semi-automated data processing algorithm as described in Demer et al. (2012). The CPS backscatter was integrated within an observational range of 10 m below the sea surface to the bottom of the surface mixed layer or, if the seabed was shallower, to 3 m above the estimated acoustic dead zone (Demer et al. 2009). The vertically integrated backscatter was averaged along 100-m intervals, and the resulting nautical area backscattering coefficients (s_A; m^2 nm^{-2}) were apportioned based on the proportion of the various CPS found in the nearest trawl cluster. The s_A were converted to biomass and numerical densities using species- and length-specific estimates of weight and individual backscattering properties (see details in Demer et al. 2012 and Zwolinski et al. *in press*).

Survey data were post-stratified to account for spatial heterogeneity in sampling effort and sardine density. Total biomass in the survey area was estimated as the sum of the biomasses in each individual stratum. Sampling variance in each stratum was estimated from the inter-transect variance calculated using bootstrap methods (Efron 1981), and total sampling variance was calculated as the sum of the variances across strata (see Demer et al. 2012; Zwolinski et al. 2012; and references therein for details). The 95% confidence intervals (CIs) were estimated as the 0.025 and 0.975 percentiles of the distribution of 1,000 bootstrap biomass estimates. Coefficient of variation (CV) for each of the mean values was obtained by dividing the bootstrapped standard errors by the point estimates (Efron 1981).

For each stratum, estimates of abundance were broken down to 1-cm standard length (SL) classes. These abundance-at-length estimates were obtained by raising the length-frequency distribution from each cluster to the abundance assigned to the respective distribution based on the acoustic backscatter. Age-length keys by season were constructed using age and length data from surveys conducted from 2006 to 2016 (Figure 12b). Age estimates from the summer 2017 AT survey were highly inconsistent with the aggregate summer age-length key (Figure 12b), so these data were not used for the update. No new age data were available from the summer 2018 survey. Therefore, the summer 2017 and 2018 length compositions were converted to age compositions using the same age-length key as Hill et al. (2017). In conjunction with a time-invariant weight-length relationship, the number-at-length estimates from the AT survey were transformed into estimates of number-at-age and biomass-at-age for each year. Mean weight-at-age vectors were constructed by dividing the biomass-at-age vectors by the respective vectors of number-at-age. During the STAR Panel (Feb 2017), the STAT was asked to recompile AT weight-at-age matrices using the cohort-smoothing approach applied to fishery samples (see 'Biological Parameters \ Growth'). As noted above, and in STAR (2017), results based on this approach were negligibly different (<1% change in biomass, and one likelihood point improvement) and thus, not included in final model ALT.

Results

Revised summer 2017 survey biomass estimate

In the 2017 assessment of Pacific sardine, the estimate of sardine biomass during summer 2017 was 36,644 t (CV = 30.1%), based on an analysis of acoustic-trawl sampling. This estimate was derived using nautical area scattering coefficients (NASC) from putative coastal pelagic fishes (CPS) integrated from 10-250 m depth. By extending beyond the typical depth-range of the CPS, these vertically integrated values included backscatter from non-CPS species with swimbladders, e.g., rockfishes and hake. After replacing CPS-NASC-250 with data from only the region where CPS were indicated by echo spectra, school morphology, and potential oceanographic habitat, i.e. typically the upper mixed layer, the estimate of sardine biomass during summer 2017 was revised to 24,349 mt ($CI_{95\%}$=10,531 to 45,855 mt, CV = 37%) (Table 6a).

Summer 2018 survey biomass estimate

The summer 2018 survey totaled 5,122 nmi of 106 daytime east-west acoustic transects and 167 night-time surface trawls combined into 64 trawl clusters. Post-cruise strata were defined, considering transect spacing, echoes or catches of CPS, and sardine eggs in the Continuous Underway Fish Egg Sampler (CUFES; Table 6b; Figures 14 and 15). Complete survey results will be provided in Demer et al. (*in preparation*).

At the time of the beginning of the summer survey, the sardine potential habitat extended beyond the north of Vancouver Island. Nonetheless, despite the availability of suitable habitat, sardine were found south of Vancouver Island. The stock was somewhat fragmented and observed in small abundances (Figure 15). The entire survey area included an estimated 35,501 mt of NSP Pacific sardine ($CI_{95\%}$=5,169 to 89,103 mt, CV=73%, Table 6b), with stratum 3 (Willapa Bay, WA to Cape Mendocino, CA) containing about 94% of the biomass (Figure 15). The distribution of abundance-at-length was tri-modal (Table 7, Figure 16), but the bulk of the biomass was concentrated in sardine larger than 15 cm SL (Figure 16).

Areas of Improvement for the AT Survey

Presently, the AT survey with Q≈1.0 is considered to generally provide unbiased measurements of the sardine population (see 'Changes between Model ALT (2017-18) and the 2014-16 Assessment Model \ Catchability'). Despite this assertion of quality, continued refinement and verification of the survey assumptions will continue in the future. In particular, it is essential that the survey design in the field continues to encompass the entire range of the stock in any given year, as well as expanding areas surveyed by using ancillary sampling tools in situations where the research vessel may have difficulty operating. Combined efforts with state fishery agencies to complement acoustic sampling with optical observations are already underway. Additionally, starting in 2018, the SWFSC began testing the use of sail drones to expand survey observations inshore of the survey vessel's range. Besides providing information about the presence of CPS in unnavigable areas, sail drones will supplement the use of acoustic sensor to monitor the presence of fish schools near the surface.

Further improvement will continue in the study of species' target strength (TS), a central parameter to convert acoustic backscatter to numerical densities, as recommended during the 2018 AT

Methodology Review (PFMC 2018). For example, in forthcoming reports regarding the summer 2017 and 2018 AT surveys (Zwolinski et al. *in press*, Demer et al. *in preparation*), a new herring-specific backscatter coefficient will be applied to distinguish Pacific herring from Pacific sardine in the overall CPS backscatter energy. As a result, sardine biomass estimates ultimately published in those two reports (14,103 mt in 2017, 30,173 mt in 2018) will differ from biomasses used in this stock assessment. The Pacific sardine STAT plans to implement this improvement in the 2020 benchmark assessment once the complete AT biomass time series (2006-present) has been consistently estimated using this approach.

Improvement of the survey design will also continue, particularly in the use of more aggressive adaptive rules that will allow increasing sampling effort in areas with unusually large concentrations of CPS. The use of adaptive sampling procedures will likely reduce the uncertainty of both biomass, species composition, and demography of target species. Also, see 'Assessment Model – Acoustic-trawl Survey / Overview / Additional assessment considerations' above and 'Research and Data Needs' below.

ASSESSMENT – MODEL

History of Modeling Approaches

The population's dynamics and status of Pacific sardine prior to the collapse in the mid-1900s was first modeled by Murphy (1966). MacCall (1979) refined Murphy's virtual population analysis (VPA) model using additional data and prorated portions of Mexican landings to exclude the southern subpopulation. Deriso et al. (1996) modeled the recovering population (1982 forward) using CANSAR, a modification of Deriso's (1985) CAGEAN model. The CANSAR was subsequently modified by Jacobson (Hill et al. 1999) into a *quasi*, two-area model CANSAR-TAM to account for net losses from the core model area. The CANSAR and CANSAR-TAM models were used for annual stock assessments and management advice from 1996 through 2004 (e.g., Hill et al. 1999; Conser et al. 2003). In 2004, a STAR Panel endorsed the use of an Age Structured Assessment Program (ASAP) model for routine assessments. The ASAP model was used for sardine assessment and management advice from 2005 to 2007 (Conser et al. 2003, 2004; Hill et al. 2006a, 2006b). In 2007, a STAR Panel reviewed and endorsed an assessment using Stock Synthesis (SS) 2 (Methot 2005, 2007), and the results were adopted for management in 2008 (Hill et al. 2007), as well as an update for 2009 management (Hill et al. 2008). The sardine model was transitioned to SS version 3.03a in 2009 (Methot 2009) and was again used for an update assessment in 2010 (Hill et al. 2009, 2010). Stock Synthesis version 3.21d was used for the 2011 full assessment (Hill et al. 2011), the 2012 update assessment (Hill et al. 2012), and the 2013 catch-only projection assessment (Hill 2013). The 2014 sardine full assessment (Hill et al. 2014), 2015 update assessment (Hill et al. 2015), and 2016 update assessment (Hill et al. 2016) were based on SS version 3.24s. The 2017 full assessment (Hill et al. 2017) and the 2018 update assessment (Hill et al. 2018) were based on SS version 3.24aa. SS version 3.24aa corrected errors associated with empirical weight-at-age models having multiple seasons.

Changes between Model ALT (2017-19) and the 2014-16 Assessment Model

Overview

General differences between the current assessment model (ALT), reviewed and adopted in 2017, and the previous assessment model (T_2016) used to advise management, as well as model T_2017 that represents an updated T_2016 model are presented in Table 8. Model T_2017 was parameterized similarly as T_2016, with newly available sample information (e.g., catch, composition, and abundance data). As indicated in recent assessments conducted in the past, selectivity estimation continued to result in problematic scaling in model T_2017, with updated length-composition data associated with the AT survey once again resulting in unrealistic estimates of total stock biomass (Hill et al. 2017). The AT length-composition time series has continually been poorly fit in the model, with estimated selectivity curves sensitive to even minor additions of new length data. Estimated selectivity of very small, young sardines (6-9 cm, age-0 fish) in the AT survey is low (i.e., in most years, the AT survey does not encounter such sizes/age), so that when small fish are observed occasionally in the survey in limited numbers, selection probabilities translate to implausibly high numbers of young fish estimated in the population (see Hill et al. 2017, STAR 2017). As addressed in past reviews, omitting new length data in the updated assessment alleviated suspect scaling issues and resulted in a more robust model (e.g., minimized potential for generating retrospective errors generally associated with highly variable terminal estimates of abundance). Given drawbacks of the length-based model above, as well as other data and parameterization considerations noted below, the STAT's proposed model-based assessment in 2017 was model ALT. In general, model ALT was developed around the highest quality source of data available for assessing the status of Pacific sardine, i.e., the focus of model ALT is fitting to the AT survey abundance time series. Further details regarding differences/similarities between model ALT (2017-19) and past models T_2016 and T_2017 follow (see Table 8). Finally, it is important to note that model ALT represents the proposed model-based assessment for advising management, but the preferred assessment is a survey-based approach as discussed above (see 'Preface' and 'Assessment – Acoustic-trawl survey \ Overview'). Further details regarding differences/similarities between model ALT (2017-19) and T_2016/T_2017 follow (see accompanying Table 8).

Time period and time step

The modeled timeframe has been shortened by roughly one decade, with the first year in model ALT being 2005, rather than 1993. Time steps in model ALT are treated similarly as in past assessments, being based on two, six-month semester blocks for each fishing year (semester 1=July-December and semester 2=January-June). The need for an extended time period in the model is not supported by the management goal, given that years prior to the start of the AT survey time series provide limited additional information for evaluating terminal stock biomass in the integrated model. Further, although a longer time series of catch may be helpful in a model for accurately determining scale in estimated quantities of interest, estimated trend and scale were not sensitive to changes in start year for model ALT. Finally, Pacific sardine biology (relatively few fish >5 years old observed in fisheries or surveys) further negates the utility of an extended time period in a population dynamics model employed for estimating terminal stock biomass of a short-lived species.

Surveys

Model ALT includes only an acoustic-trawl survey index of abundance, omitting abundance time series used in past assessments associated with eggs/larvae surveys (daily egg production method – DEPM, and total egg production – TEP). Justification for removing eggs/larvae data from ALT model is described in Hill et al. (2017).

Fisheries

Fishery structure in model ALT is similar to past assessments. Three fisheries are included in the model, including two Mexico-California *fleets* separated into semesters (MEXCAL_S1 and MEXCAL_S2) and one *fleet* representing Pacific Northwest fisheries (Canada-WA-OR, PNW). Also, because the California live bait industry currently reflects the only active sector in the U.S. sardine fishery, minor amounts of live bait landings were included in the current assessment based on model ALT.

Longevity and natural mortality

Biology assumptions for Pacific sardine in model ALT were revised in 2017, including decreasing longevity and increasing natural mortality (*M*). Justification for revised assumptions for longevity (15 to 10 years) and *M* (0.4 to 0.6 yr^{-1}) follow: recommended in past assessment reviews; biological parameters are now consistent with observed length and age data collected from the fisheries and surveys (limited numbers of fish >5 years old observed in composition time series since 2000); supportive evidence from mortality studies from AT survey research (Zwolinski and Demer 2013), as well as from general research addressing underlying correlation between maximum lifespan and mortality (Hoenig 1983); and finally, higher *M* estimates (0.55-0.65 yr^{-1}) were consistent with other estimated parameters associated with the highest priority data in the model, e.g., assumption that AT survey catch rates are applicable to the entire population in any given year ($Q \approx 1$), see Natural mortality profile below. Also, see 'Assessment Data \ Biological Parameters \ Natural mortality' above and 'Natural mortality profile' below.

Growth

A matrix of empirical weight-at-age estimates by year/semester is now used in model ALT to translate derived numbers-at-age into biomass-at-age, rather than estimating growth internally in the model as conducted previously in past assessments. Treatment of growth using empirical weight-at-age matrices associated with the fisheries, survey, and population greatly simplifies the overall assessment, while also allowing growth to vary across time and minimizing potential conflicts with selectivity parameterization.

Stock-recruitment relationship

Beverton-Holt stock-recruitment (*S-R*) parameters are estimated in model ALT, including both virgin recruitment ($\log R_0$) and steepness (*h*).

Selectivity

Selectivity in model ALT is based on age compositions and age-based selectivity, rather than length compositions and length-based selectivity as used in recently conducted past assessments. Primary justification for changing how selectivity is treated in the integrated model is based on the overriding goal to develop a parsimonious model that includes the most efficient parameterizations in the age-structured modeling platform (SS). Further, results from recent assessments have been particularly sensitive to minor changes (updates) to length-composition time series, which has been highlighted as a problematic area over the last few years in the ongoing assessment (Hill et al. 2014, 2015, 2016; STAR 2014). Also, see 'Model Description \ Selectivity' below.

Catchability
Catchability (Q) is freely estimated for the AT survey in model ALT, which is a major change from past assessments that have assumed Q=1.0 for the primary index of abundance in the assessment. That is, model ALT illustrates that a critical assumption underlying the survey-based assessment approach (i.e., AT survey methods and design allow efficient sampling within the stock's range in any given year, or $Q \approx 1$) is supported using a relatively simple integrated assessment model that includes other ancillary sources of data (e.g., catch and composition data), is based on realistic assumptions/parameterizations (e.g., M, growth, and stock-recruitment), is internally consistent (data conflicts are minimized), and generates robust results.

Model Description

Important parameterizations in model ALT are described below. Information for particular parameterizations is also presented under 'Changes between Model ALT (2017-19) and the 2014-16 Assessment Model' above.

Assessment program with last revision date
In 2014, the stock assessment team (STAT) transitioned from Stock Synthesis (SS) version 3.21d to version 3.24s (Methot 2013, Methot and Wetzel 2013), which was used for all assessments through 2016. In 2017, the SS model received some additional minor revisions and recompiled (version 3.24aa) to accommodate empirical weight-at-age data in a semester-based model. The SS model is comprised of three sub-models: (1) a population dynamics sub-model, where abundance, mortality, and growth patterns are incorporated to create a synthetic representation of the true population; (2) an observation sub-model that defines various processes and filters to derive expected values for different types of data; and (3) a statistical sub-model that quantifies the difference between observed data and their expected values and implements algorithms to search for the set of parameters that maximizes goodness of fit. The modeling framework allows for the full integration of both population size and age structure, with explicit parameterization both spatially and temporally. The model incorporates all relevant sources of variability and estimates goodness of fit in terms of the original data, allowing for final estimates of precision that accurately reflect uncertainty associated with the sources of data used as input in the modeling effort.

Definitions of fleets and areas
Data from major fishing regions are aggregated to represent southern and northern fleets (fisheries). The southern 'MEXCAL' fleet includes data from three major fishing areas at the southern end of the stock's distribution: northern Baja California (Ensenada, Mexico), southern California (Los Angeles to Santa Barbara), and central California (Monterey Bay). Fishing can occur throughout the year in the southern region. However, availability-at-size/age changes due to migration. Selectivity for the southern MEXCAL fleet was therefore modeled separately for seasons 1 and 2 (semesters, S1 and S2).

The 'PNW' fleet (fishery) includes data from the northern range of the stock's distribution, where sardine are typically abundant between late spring and early fall. The PNW fleet includes aggregate data from Oregon, Washington, and Vancouver Island (British Columbia, Canada). The majority of fishing in the northern region typically occurs between July and October (S1).

Likelihood components and model parameters

A complete list of model parameters for model ALT is presented in Table 10. The total objective function was based on the following individual likelihood components: 1) fits to catch time series; 2) fits to the AT survey abundance index; 3) fits to age compositions from the three fleets and AT survey; 4) deviations about the stock-recruitment relationship; and 5) minor contributions from soft-bound penalties associated with particular estimated parameters.

Initial population and fishing conditions

Given the Pacific sardine stock has been exploited since the early 20^{th} Century (i.e., well before the start year used in model ALT), further information is needed to address equilibrium assumptions related to starting population dynamics calculations in the assessment model. One approach is to extend the modeled time period backwards in time to the start of the small pelagic fisheries off the U.S. west coast and in effect, ensure no fishing occurred prior to the start year in the model. In an integrated model, this method can be implemented by: 1) extending the catch time series back in time and confirming that harvest continues to decline generally as the onset of the fishery is approached; or 2) estimating additional parameters regarding initial population and fishing conditions in the model. Given assumptions regarding initial equilibrium for Pacific sardine (a shorter-lived species with relatively high intrinsic rates of increase) are necessarily difficult to support regardless of when the modeled time period begins, as well as the extreme length of an extended catch time series (early 1900s) that would be needed in this case, the approach above was adopted in this assessment, as conducted in all previous assessments to date.

The initial population was defined by estimating 'early' recruitment deviations from 1999-04, i.e., six years prior to the start year in the model. Initial fishing mortality (F) was estimated for the MEXCAL_S1 fishery and fixed=0 for MEXCAL_S2 and PNW fisheries, noting that results were robust to different combinations of estimated vs. fixed initial F for the three fisheries. In effect, the initial equilibrium age composition in the model is adjusted via application of early recruitment deviations prior to the start year of the model, whereby the model applies the initial F level to an equilibrium age composition to get a preliminary number-at-age time series, then applies the recruitment deviations for the specified number of younger ages in this initial vector. If the number of estimated ages in the initial age composition is less than the total number of age groups assumed in the model (as is the case here), then the older ages will retain their equilibrium levels. Because the older ages in the initial age composition will have progressively less information from which to estimate their true deviation, the start of the bias adjustment was set accordingly (see Methot 2013; Methot and Wetzel 2013). Ultimately, this parsimonious approach reflects a non-equilibrium analysis or rather, allows for a relaxed equilibrium assumption of the virgin (unfished) age structure at the start of the model as implied by the assumed natural mortality rate (M). Finally, an equilibrium 'offset' from the stock-recruitment relationship was estimated and along with the early recruitment deviation estimates allowed the most flexibility for matching the population age structure to the initial age-composition data at the start of the modeled time period.

Growth
See 'Changes between Model ALT (2017-19) and the 2014-16 Assessment Model \ Growth' above.

Stock-recruitment relationship
Pacific sardines are believed to have a broad spawning season, beginning in January off northern Baja California and ending by July off the Pacific Northwest. In the semester-based model ALT, spawning stock biomass (SSB) is calculated at the beginning of S2 (January). Recruitment was specified to occur in S1 of the following model year (consistent with the July 1st birth-date assumption). In past assessments, a Ricker stock-recruitment (S-R) relationship had been assumed following Jacobson and MacCall (1995), however, following recommendations from past reviews, a Beverton-Holt S-R has been implemented in all assessments since 2014.

Virgin recruitment (R_0), initial equilibrium recruitment offset (R_1), and steepness (h) were estimated. Following recommendations from past assessments, the estimate of average recruitment variability (σ_R) assumed in the S-R relationship was set to 0.75 since 2014. Recruitment deviations were estimated as separate vectors for the early and main data periods in the overall model. Early recruitment deviations for the initial population were estimated from 1999-04 (six years before the start of the model). A recruitment bias adjustment ramp (Methot and Taylor 2011) was applied to the early period and bias-adjusted recruitment estimated in the main period of the model (Figure 27). Main period recruitment deviations were advanced one year from that used in the last assessment, i.e., estimated from 2005-16 (S2 of each model year), which translates to the 2017 year class being freely estimated (albeit poorly) from the 2017 data available in the model.

It is important to note that there exists little information in the assessment to directly evaluate recent recruitment strength (e.g., absolute numbers of age-0, 6-9 cm fish in the most recent year), with the exception of age data from the southern fisheries, which have caught these juveniles infrequently in past years in low volume during their first semester of life (S1), but in greater amounts during their second semester (MEXCAL_S2). Age-0 recruits are rarely observed in the PNW fishery. Age-0 fish are not typically encountered by the AT survey, except for limited occurrences in particular years and in relatively high numbers observed in one cruise (summer 2015).

Selectivity
Age-composition time series from the MEXCAL and PNW fisheries were modeled using age-based selectivity. The MEXCAL compositions were fit based on each age as a random walk from the previous age, which resulted in domed-shaped selectivity similar to fits from a double-normal selectivity form as used in past assessments, i.e., supporting the assumption that older/larger fish are not generally available to the southern fisheries, both historically and presently. Selectivity for the MEXCAL fleet was estimated by semester (S1 and S2) to better account for both seasonal- and decadal-scale shifts in sardine availability to the southern region. The PNW fishery age compositions were fit using asymptotic selectivity (two-parameter logistic form), given this stock's biology and strong evidence that larger, older sardines typically migrate to more northern feeding habitats each summer. A simple asymptotic selectivity form was used for the AT survey, whereby age-0 fish were assumed to be unavailable and age 1+ fish fully selected. Justifications for a simplified selectivity form for the AT survey follow: the survey is based on sound technical

methods and an expansive sampling operation in the field using an optimal habitat index for efficiently encountering all adult fish in the stock (Demer and Zwolinski 2014); observations of age-1 fish in length- and age-composition time series, to some degree, in every year; recognition of some level of ageing bias in the laboratory that may confound explicit interpretation of estimated age compositions, e.g., low probability of selection of age-1 fish in a particular year may be attributed to incorrectly assigned ages for age-0 or age-2 fish; and minor constraints to selectivity estimation, which typically reflects a sensitive parameterization that can substantially impact model results, supports the overriding goal of the assessment, i.e., parsimonious model that is developed around the AT survey abundance index. Finally, in addition to potential biases associated with the trawling and ageing processes, the age-1+ selectivity assumption recognizes the vulnerability of adult sardine with fully-developed swim bladders to echosounder energy in the acoustic sampling process. That is, there are three selectivity components to consider with the acoustic-trawl method: 1) fish availability with regard to the actual area surveyed each year; 2) vulnerability of fish to the acoustic sampling gear; and 3) vulnerability of fish to the mid-water trawl (avoidance and/or extrusion). No evidence exists that sardine with fully-developed swim bladders (i.e., greater than age 0) are missed by the acoustic equipment, further supporting the assumption that age-1+ fish are fully-selected by the survey in any given year.

Catchability

See 'Changes between Model ALT (2017-19) and the 2014-16 Assessment Model \ Catchability' above.

Convergence criteria and status

The iterative process for determining numerical solutions in the model was continued until the difference between successive likelihood estimates was <0.00001. The total likelihood and final gradient estimates for model ALT were 350.493 and 7.99e-006, respectively.

Changes to the update model (ALT 2019)

The final model adopted for the 2017-18 (Hill et al. 2017) and 2018-19 (Hill et al. 2018) management cycles was modified and appended in the following manner for the 2019 update:

1) Landings for 2017 were updated using final data from each port region;
2) Landings for 2018 were updated/appended using preliminary data for each region;
3) The habitat model was applied to ascribe NSP to all landings and compositions;
4) One revised biomass estimate from the summer 2017 AT survey;
5) One revised age composition from the summer 2017 AT survey;
6) One new biomass estimate from the summer 2018 AT survey;
7) One new age composition from the summer 2018 AT survey;
8) One additional recruitment deviation was estimated in the model (i.e. 2018 YC estimated from 2017-2 SSB) and bias adjustment ramps were changed accordingly.

Results

The following results pertain to model ALT updated for 2019. Estimates for important parameterizations and derived quantities useful to management are presented in Tables 9-15.

Likelihoods and derived quantities of interest

Model likelihoods and derived quantities of interest for the update are provided in Table 9. Population estimates from the update model (ALT 2019) scaled slightly lower than the final model from 2018 as well as the 2018 model with the corrected 2017 AT estimate. A bridging model (ALT 2019a), which omitted the summer 2018 AT age composition, was run to identify the cause of lower scaling and higher likelihood in the update (i.e., the new AT biomass vs. AT age composition). Like ALT 2019, model ALT 2019a scaled lower than the 2018 model, indicating that the low summer 2018 AT biomass was the primary source of change in the update (Table 9).

Parameter estimates and errors

Parameter estimates and standard errors (SE) for model ALT are presented in Table 10.

Growth estimates

Growth parameters were not estimated in model ALT, rather, empirical weight-at-age estimates by year were used to convert estimated numbers into weight of fish for calculating important biomass quantities useful to management (Figures 5-7).

Selectivity estimates and fits to fishery and survey age-composition time series

Age-based selectivity estimates (ogives) for the three fisheries and AT survey are presented in Figure 18. Model fit displays to fishery and AT survey age compositions (including observed and effective sample sizes) and associated Pearson residual plots are presented in Figures 19-22. The fishery (MEXCAL_S1, MEXCAL_S2, and PNW) age-composition time series were fit relatively well in most years, but poor fits were observed in some years, particularly, for the most recent years in the time series (Figures 19-21). Poor fits to the AT survey age-composition time series were indicated in most years (Figure 22).

Fit to survey index of abundance

Model fits to the AT survey abundance index in arithmetic and log scale are presented in Figure 23. The predicted fit to the survey index was generally good (near mean estimates and within error bounds), particularly, for the most recent years of the time series (Figure 23). As illustrated in past assessments, the notable exception in the fitted time series was for the initial survey year 2005 (spring 2006 cruise), which was under-estimated and outside the estimated confidence interval. Estimated catchability (Q) for the AT survey was 1.17 (Table 10).

Stock-recruitment relationship

Recruitment was modeled using a Beverton-Holt stock-recruitment (S-R) relationship (Figure 24). The assumed level of underlying recruitment deviation error was fixed (σ_R=0.75), virgin (unfished) recruitment was estimated ($\log R_0$=13.8649), and steepness was estimated (h=0.304) (Table 10). Recruitment deviations for the early (1999-04), main (2005-17), and forecast (2018-19) periods in the model are presented in Figure 25). Asymptotic standard errors for recruitment deviations are displayed in Figure 26 and the recruitment bias adjustment plot for early, main, and forecast periods in model ALT is shown in Figure 27.

Population number- and biomass-at-age estimates
Population number-at-age estimates for model ALT are presented in Table 11. Corresponding estimates of population biomass-at-age, total biomass (age-0+ fish, mt) and stock biomass (age-1+ fish, mt) are shown in Table 12. On average, age 0-3 fish have comprised roughly 68% of the total population biomass in each year from 2005-19.

Spawning stock biomass
Time series of estimated spawning stock biomass (SSB, mmt) and associated 95% confidence intervals are presented in Table 13 and Figure 28. The virgin level of SSB was estimated to be 74,466 mt. The SSB has continually declined since 2005-06, reaching low levels in recent years (2014-present). SSB was projected to be 19,502 mt (SD=12,069 mt; CV=0.619) in January 2020.

Recruitment
Time series of estimated recruitment (age 0, billions) abundance is presented in Tables 11 and 13, and Figure 30. The virgin level of recruitment (R_0) was estimated to be 1.05 billion age-0 fish. As indicated for SSB above, recruitment has largely declined since 2005-06, with the exception of a brief period of modest recruitment success from 2009-10. In particular, the 2011-17 year classes have been among the weakest in recent history. A small increase in recruitment was estimated in 2018, albeit a highly uncertain estimate (CV=77%) based on limited data.

Stock biomass for PFMC management
Stock biomass, used for calculating annual harvest specifications, is defined as the sum of the biomass for sardine ages one and older (age 1+) at the start of the management year. Time series of estimated stock biomass are presented Table 12 and Figure 29a,b. Stock biomass and dynamic B0 (unfished population) results are compared in Figure 29c. As discussed above for both SSB and recruitment, a similar trend of declining stock biomass has been observed since 2005-06, peaking at 1.76 mmt in 2006, and plateauing at recent low levels since 2014. Model ALT stock biomass is projected to be **27,547 mt in July 2019**. Pacific sardine NSP stock biomass is now below the 50,000 mt minimum stock size threshold as defined in the CPS-FMP.

Fishing and exploitation rates
Estimated fishing mortality (apical *F*) time series by fishery are presented in Figure 31. Fishing mortality has been generally less than 0.5 yr^{-1} since 2005-06, with the exception of the PNW fishery in 2005 and from 2012-13, with *F* estimates greater than 1.0 yr^{-1}.

Exploitation rate is defined as the calendar year northern sub-population (NSP) catch divided by the total mid-year biomass (July 1^{st}, ages 0+). The U.S. and total exploitation rates for the NSP are shown in Figure 32. The U.S. exploitation rate was less than 10% from 2005-11, increased sharply from 2012-14 to over 27%, and dropping to under 1% in 2017 and 2018. U.S. exploitation was 11% over the entire modeled period. The total exploitation rate time series followed a similar trend, with exploitation rates less than 17% from 2005-11, increasing to 44% by 2013, and 17.8% across all modeled years.

Uncertainty Analyses

Retrospective analysis

Retrospective analysis provides another means of examining model properties and characterizing uncertainty. A retrospective analysis was performed for model ALT, whereby data were incrementally removed from the terminal year (2019) backwards in time to 2014 (end year -5). Estimated stock biomass time series from this analysis are presented in Figure 33. For the most part, no notable retrospective pattern was indicated by the analysis, i.e., no systematic bias of overestimating biomass in the terminal year was illustrated through sequentially removing data from the model backwards in time. A slight retrospective bias was indicated as data were removed five or more years back in time. It is important to note that some degree of retrospective bias would be expected from a stock assessment of short-lived, productive species like Pacific sardine, given little information is available in the integrated model for estimating recruitment that typically is highly variable in any given year based on immediate oceanographic conditions.

Convergence tests

Convergence properties of model ALT were tested to ensure the model represented an optimal solution. Model ALT was run with a wide range of initial starting values for R_0 (13.2 to 15.1). For each run, phase order for estimating parameter components (e.g., R_0, R_1, steepness, initial F, selectivity, and AT survey Q) was randomized from 1 to 5, and all parameters were jittered by 20% (Table 14). All models converged to the same total negative log likelihood estimate (350.493) and had identical final estimates of R_0 (13.8649). Model ALT appeared to have converged to a global minimum.

Historical analysis

Estimates of stock biomass (age-1+ fish, mt) and recruitment (age-0 fish, billions) for model ALT were compared to recently conducted assessments in Figure 34. Full and updated stock assessments since 2014 (Hill et al. 2014-18) are included in the comparison. Stock biomass and recruitment trends were generally similar, with notable differences in scale between particular years. It is important to note that previous (2014-16) assessments were structured very similarly (e.g., similar model dimensions, data, assumptions, and parameterizations). Whereas, the newly developed ALT model reflects a much simpler version of past assessments models necessarily confounding direct comparisons between results from this year’s model with past assessments.

HARVEST CONTROL RULES FOR THE 2019-20 MANAGEMENT CYCLE

Harvest Guideline

The annual harvest guideline (HG) is calculated as follows:

HG = (BIOMASS – CUTOFF) • FRACTION • DISTRIBUTION;

where HG is the total U.S. directed harvest for the period July 2019 to June 2020, BIOMASS is the stock biomass (ages 1+, mt) projected as of July 1, 2019, CUTOFF (150,000 mt) is the lowest level of biomass for which directed harvest is allowed, FRACTION (E_{MSY} bounded 0.05-0.20) is the percentage of biomass above the CUTOFF that can be harvested, and DISTRIBUTION (87%) is the average portion of BIOMASS assumed in U.S. waters. Based on results from model ALT, estimated stock biomass is projected to be below the 150,000 mt threshold and thus, the HG for 2019-20 would be 0 mt. Harvest estimates for model ALT are presented in Table 15.

OFL and ABC

On March 11, 2014, the PFMC adopted the use of CalCOFI sea-surface temperature (SST) data for specifying environmentally-dependent E_{MSY} each year. The E_{MSY} is calculated as,

$$E_{\mathrm{MSY}} = -18.46452+3.25209(T)-0.19723(T^2)+0.0041863(T^3),$$

where T is the three-year running average of CalCOFI SST (Table 16, Figure 35), and E_{MSY} for OFL and ABC is bounded between 0 to 0.25 (Figure 35). Based on the recent warmer conditions in the CCE, the average temperature for 2016-18 decreased to 16.1123 °C, resulting in E_{MSY}=0.243.

Estimated stock biomass in July 2019 for model ALT was **27,547 mt** (Table 15). The overfishing limit (OFL, 2019-20) associated with that biomass was **5,816 mt** (Table 15). The SSB was projected to be 19,502 mt (SD=12,069 mt; CV=0.619) in January 2020, so the corresponding Sigma for calculating P-star buffers is 0.57 rather than the newly adopted default value (0.50) for Tier 1 assessments. Acceptable biological catches (ABC, 2019-20) for a range of *P-star* values (Tier 1 σ=0.57; Tier 2 σ=1.0) associated with model ALT-2019 are presented in Table 15.

REGIONAL MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Pacific sardine, as well as other species considered in the CPS FMP, are not managed formally on a regional basis within the USA, due primarily to the extensive distribution and annual migration exhibited by these small pelagic stocks. A form of regional (spatial/temporal) management has been adopted for Pacific sardine, whereby seasonal allocations are stipulated in attempts to ensure regional fishing sectors have at least some access to the directed harvest each year (PFMC 2014).

RESEARCH AND DATA NEEDS

Research and data needed for improving stock assessments of the Pacific sardine resource in the future address three major areas that are presented in descending order of importance below.

First and foremost, the most important area of focus should be improvements associated with the highest priority data available for assessing recent stock biomass on an annual basis, namely, the acoustic-trawl (AT) survey index of abundance (see 'Assessment – Acoustic-trawl Survey \ Overview' above). This is the case whether future management will be based directly on the AT survey or via an integrated model. The AT survey methods and design are founded currently on objective scientific bases, however, the need for continual improvement for specific areas include: 1) Target-strength estimation for local species; 2) determine potential biases due to the non-sampling of near-surface waters and shallow regions on the east end of the transects; and 3) implications of the time-lag between acoustic observations and trawl sampling operations (see 'Assessment – Acoustic-trawl Survey \ Areas of Improvement for the AT Survey' above). Additionally, improved relations with neighboring countries that also commercially target the northern sub-population of Pacific sardine (particularly, Mexico) are needed to establish a broader survey boundary than possible presently (e.g., Baja California, Mexico to Vancouver Island, Canada), which would allow stock structure hypotheses for this species to be evaluated more objectively. Finally, long-term support and commitment to the AT survey will benefit more than Pacific sardine alone, given these data represent the highest quality information available for determining recent stock biomass for all members of the small pelagic fish assemblage of the California Current ecosystem, including northern anchovy (northern and central sub-stocks), as well as mackerel populations (e.g., Pacific and jack)—noting that further attention is needed surrounding catchability issues that remain unresolved for these transboundary stocks and the extent to which a species' range in any given year may be outside the survey design's boundaries.

Second, maintaining a high quality (accurate and precise) composition time series, both age and size (length and weight), is critical for either assessment approach, but particularly, for using an integrated model for assessing the status of the stock. Data collection of biological samples by the three state fishery agencies (CDFW, ODFW, and WDFW) is adequate presently, but obtaining such data from Canada and particularly Mexico, has been somewhat problematic in the past. Further, multiple ageing operations are relied on currently, which would benefit from further coordination that ensures samples are efficiently processed in a timely manner and related ageing bias is minimized across laboratories. In this context, a major change that warrants further consideration would be to revisit the merits and drawbacks of using multiple ageing laboratories vs. trying to better centralize ageing operations under a single laboratory.

Third, a schedule should be adopted for conducting biology-related studies for informing critical biological parameters in a model-based assessment. For example, revisiting assumed maturity schedules currently used for Pacific sardine (this is done every year when the DEPM data are processed), as well as periodically evaluating growth parameters applicable to the stock, even though growth is no longer an estimated parameter in the model-based assessment. That is, it is important that data for generally informing biology parameters applicable to the stock continue to be collected and processed according to an efficient schedule that allows both the survey- and particularly, model-based assessment to be updated systematically. For example, an ideal schedule for conducting (coastwide) biology projects related to Pacific sardine would be every 5-7 years.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The annual sardine assessment depends, in large part, on the diligence of many colleagues and the timely receipt of their data products. Port samples for the Ensenada, México fishery were collected by INAPESCA (Ensenada). Recent landings data from the Ensenada fishery were kindly provided by Concepción Enciso-Enciso (INAPESCA-Ensenada). Port samples and ageing data for the California fishery were provided by CDFW Marine Region personnel in Monterey (Chelsea Protasio, Laura Ryley, Anna Holder, Nichole Rodriguez, Ciera Cross, and Abril Zarate), Los Alamitos (Dianna Porzio, Mandy Lewis, Trung Nguyen, and Roy Kim), and Santa Barbara (Erica Hadley and David Gottesman). Thanks also go to the staffs of ODFW (Jill Smith, Nick Wilsman, Dean Headlee, Cyreis Schmitt) and WDFW (Carol Henry, Kristen Hinton, Bob Le Goff, and Lorna Wargo) for collecting and processing biological samples from the fisheries off the Pacific Northwest. All ODFW and WDFW otolith samples were aged by Sandy Rosenfield and Jennifer Topping of WDFW-Olympia. We thank Alan Sarich of the Quinault Indian Nation for providing sample data from their fishery during June and July of 2015. Monthly landings and size data for the British Columbia fishery were collected by D&D Pacific Fisheries Ltd which is a 3rd party contracted service (dockside validation, at sea sampling, catch and sample data entry and management) funded by the Canadian Pacific Sardine Association and First Nations Sardine Association. DFO-Canada staff are custodians and users of the data, and Linnea Flostrand, Vanessa Hodes, Sean MacConnachie, and Jordan Mah kindly provided the data as used in this assessment. Numerous staff from the SWFSC assisted in the ongoing collection and processing of ichthyoplankton samples, mid-water trawl samples, and acoustic data used in this assessment. We thank Richard Methot (NWFSC) for developing and continuously improving the Stock Synthesis code, and thank Ian Taylor (NWFSC) for maintaining the R4SS package that allows SS outputs to be efficiently summarized and displayed.

LITERATURE CITED

Ahlstrom, E. H. 1960. Synopsis on the biology of the Pacific sardine (*Sardinops caerulea*). Proc. World Sci. Meet. Biol. Sardines and Related Species, FAO, Rome, 2: 415-451.

Barnes, J. T., L. D. Jacobson, A. D. MacCall, and P. Wolf. 1992. Recent population trends and abundance estimates of the Pacific sardine (*Sardinops sagax*). CalCOFI Rep. 33: 60-75.

Baumgartner, T., A. Soutar, and V. Ferriera-Bartrina. 1992. Reconstruction of the history of pacific sardine and northern anchovy populations over the past two millennia from sediments of the Santa Barbara Basin, California. CalCOFI Rep. 33: 24-40.

Butler, J. L. 1987. Comparisons of the larval and juvenile growth and larval mortality rates of Pacific sardine and northern anchovy and implications for species interactions. Ph. D. Thesis, Univ. Calif., San Diego, 240 pp.

Butler, J.L., P.E. Smith, and N.C.H. Lo. 1993. The effect of natural variability of life-history parameters on anchovy and sardine population growth. CalCOFI Rep. 34: 104-111.

Clark, F. N., and J. F. Janssen. Jr. 1945. Movements and abundance of the sardine as measured by tag returns. Calif. Div. Fish Game Fish. Bull. 61: 7-42.

Clark, F. N., and J. C. Marr. 1955. Population dynamics of the Pacific sardine. CalCOFI Prog. Rep. 1 July 1953-31 March 1955: 11-48.

CONAPESCA. 2015. Anuario Estadístico de Acuacultura y Pesca. http://www.conapesca.sagarpa.gob.mx/wb/cona/cona_anuario_estadistico_de_pesca

Conser, R. J., K. T. Hill, P. R. Crone, N. C. H. Lo, and D. Bergen. 2003. Stock assessment of Pacific sardine with management recommendations for 2004: Executive Summary. Pacific Fishery Management Council, November 2003. 15 p.

Conser, R., K. Hill, P. Crone, N. Lo, and R. Felix-Uraga. 2004. Assessment of the Pacific sardine stock for U.S. management in 2005: Pacific Fishery Management Council, November 2004. 135 p.

Cushing, D. H. 1971. The dependence of recruitment of parent stock on different groups of fishes. J. Cons. Int. Explor. Mer. 33: 340-362.

Cutter, G. R. and D. A. Demer. 2008. California current ecosystem survey 2006: Acoustic cruise reports for NOAA FSV *Oscar Dyson* and NOAA FRV *David Starr Jordan*. NOAA Tech. Memo. NOAA-TM-NMFS-SWFSC-415. 103 p.

Demer, D. A., J. P. Zwolinski, K. A. Byers, G. R. Cutter, J. S. Renfree, T. S. Sessions, B. J. Macewicz. 2012. Prediction and confirmation of seasonal migration of Pacific sardine (*Sardinops sagax*) in the California Current Ecosystem. Fish. Bull. 110:52-70.

Demer, D.A., Zwolinski, J.P. 2014. Corroboration and refinement of a method for differentiating landings from two stocks of Pacific sardine (*Sardinops sagax*) in the California Current. ICES Journal of Marine Science 71(2): 328-335.

Demer, D. A., K. L. Stierhoff, and J. P. Zwolinski. *In preparation*. Distribution, biomass, and demography of coastal pelagic fishes during summer 2018, estimated from acoustic-trawl sampling. NOAA Technical Memorandum NMFS.

Deriso, R., T. J. Quinn and P. R. Neal. 1985. Catch-age analysis with auxiliary information. Can. J. Fish. Aquat. Sci. 42:4.

Deriso, R. B., J. T. Barnes, L. D. Jacobson, and P. J. Arenas. 1996. Catch-at-age analysis for Pacific sardine (*Sardinops sagax*), 1983-1995. CalCOFI Rep. 37:175-187.

Dorval, E., McDaniel, J.D., Porzio, D.L., Hodes, V., Felix-Uraga, R., Rosenfield, S. 2013. Computing and selecting ageing errors to include in stock assessment models of Pacific sardine (*Sardinops sagax*). CalCOFI Rep. 54: 1-13.

Dorval, E., B.J. Macewicz, D.A. Griffith, and Y. Gu. 2016. Spawning biomass of Pacific sardine (*Sardinops sagax*) estimated from the daily egg production method off California in 2015. U.S. Dep. Commer., NOAA Tech. Memo. NMFS-SWFSC-560. 47 p. https://swfsc.noaa.gov/publications/TM/SWFSC/NOAA-TM-NMFS-SWFSC-560.pdf

Efron, B. 1981. Nonparametric standard errors and confidence intervals. The Canadian Journal of Statistics, 9: 139-172.

Eschmeyer, W. N., E. S. Herald, and H. Hammann. 1983. A Field Guide to Pacific Coast Fishes of North America. Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston, MA. 336 p.

Félix-Uraga, R., V. M. Gómez-Muñoz, C. Quiñónez-Velázquez, F. Neri Melo-Barrera, and W. García-Franco. 2004. On the existence of Pacific sardine groups off the west coast of Baja California and Southern California. CalCOFI Rep. 45: 146-151.

Felix-Uraga, R., V. M. Gómez-Muñoz, C. Quiñónez-Velázquez, F. Neri Melo-Barrera, K. T. Hill and W. García-Franco. 2005. Pacific sardine stock discrimination off the west coast of Baja California and southern California using otolith morphometry. CalCOFI Rep. 46: 113-121.

Francis, R.I.C.C. 2011. Data weighting in statistical fisheries stock assessment models. Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences 68:1,124-1,138.

García F. W. and Sánchez R. F. J. 2003. Análisis de la pesquería de pelágicos menores de la costa occidental de Baja California durante la temporada del 2002. Boletín Anual 2003. Secretaria de Agricultura, Ganadería, Desarrollo Rural, Pesca y Alimentación. Instituto Nacional de la Pesca. Centro Regional de Investigación Pesquera de Ensenada, Cámara Nacional de la Industria Pesquera y Acuícola, Delegación Baja California. 15 p.

Garcia-Morales, R. Shirasago-German, B. Felix-Uraga, R. and Perez-Lezama, E.L. 2012. Conceptual models of Pacific sardine distribution in the California Current system. Current Develop. Oceangr. 5(1): 23-47.

Hart, J. L. 1973. Pacific fishes of Canada. Fish. Res. Board Can., Bull. 180. 740 p.

Hedgecock, D., E. S. Hutchinson, G. Li, F. L. Sly, and K. Nelson. 1989. Genetic and morphometric variation in the Pacific sardine, *Sardinops sagax caerulea*: comparisons and contrasts with historical data and with variability in the northern anchovy, *Engraulis mordax*. Fish. Bull. 87: 653-671.

Hill, K. T. 1999. Determining age composition of coastal pelagic species in northern California, Oregon, and Washington coastal waters. Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission. Gladstone, Oregon. Project #1-IJ-9 Final Report. 47 p.

Hill, K.T. 2013. Pacific sardine biomass projection in 2013 for U.S. management during the first half of 2014 (Executive Summary). Pacific Fishery Management Council, 7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101, Portland, Oregon 97220. 8 p.

Hill, K.T., L.D. Jacobson, N.C.H. Lo, M. Yaremko, and M. Dege. 1999. Stock assessment of Pacific sardine for 1998 with management recommendations for 1999. Calif. Dept. Fish. Game. Marine Region Admin. Rep. 99-4. 92 pp.

Hill, K. T., N. C. H. Lo, B. J. Macewicz, and R. Felix-Uraga. 2006a. Assessment of the Pacific sardine (*Sardinops sagax caerulea*) population for U.S. management in 2006. NOAA Tech. Memo. NOAA-TM-NMFS-SWFSC-386. 75 p.

Hill, K. T., N. C. H. Lo, B. J. Macewicz, and R. Felix-Uraga. 2006b. Assessment of the Pacific sardine (*Sardinops sagax caerulea*) population for U.S. management in 2007. NOAA Tech. Memo. NOAA-TM-NMFS-SWFSC-396. 99 p.

Hill, K. T., E. Dorval, N. C. H. Lo, B. J. Macewicz, C. Show, and R. Felix-Uraga. 2007. Assessment of the Pacific sardine resource in 2007 for U.S. management in 2008. NOAA Tech. Memo. NOAA-TM-NMFS-SWFSC-413. 178 p.

Hill, K. T., E. Dorval, N. C. H. Lo, B. J. Macewicz, C. Show, and R. Felix-Uraga. 2008. Assessment of the Pacific sardine resource in 2008 for U.S. management in 2009. PFMC, Nov 2008, Agenda Item G.2.b, 236 p.

Hill, K. T., N. C. H. Lo, P. R. Crone, B. J. Macewicz, and R. Felix-Uraga. 2009. Assessment of the Pacific sardine resource in 2009 for USA management in 2010. U.S. Dep. Commer., NOAA Tech. Memo. NMFS-SWFSC-452. 182 p.

Hill, K. T., N. C. H. Lo, B. J. Macewicz, P. R. Crone, and R. Felix-Uraga. 2010. Assessment of the Pacific sardine resource in 2010 for U.S. management in 2011. U.S. Dep. Commer., NOAA Tech. Memo. NMFS-SWFSC-469. 137 p.

Hill, K. T., P. R. Crone, N. C. H. Lo, B. J. Macewicz, E. Dorval, J. D. McDaniel, and Y. Gu. 2011. Assessment of the Pacific sardine resource in 2011 for U.S. management in 2012. U.S. Dep. Commer., NOAA Tech. Memo. NMFS-SWFSC-487. 260 p.

Hill, K.T., Crone, P.R., Lo, N. C. H., Demer, D.A., Zwolinski, J.P., Macewicz, B.J. 2012. Assessment of the Pacific sardine resource in 2012 for U.S. management in 2013. NOAA Technical Memorandum NMFS-SWFSC-501.

Hill, K. T., P. R. Crone, D. A. Demer, J. P. Zwolinski, E. Dorval, and B. J. Macewicz. 2014. Assessment of the Pacific sardine resource in 2014 for U.S.A. management in 2014-15. US Department of Commerce. NOAA Tech. Memo. NMFS-SWFSC-531, 305 p. https://swfsc.noaa.gov/publications/TM/SWFSC/NOAA-TM-NMFS-SWFSC-531.pdf

Hill, K. T., P. R. Crone, E. Dorval, and B. J. Macewicz. 2015. Assessment of the Pacific sardine resource in 2015 for U.S.A. management in 2015-16. US Department of Commerce. NOAA Tech. Memo. NMFS-SWFSC-546, 168 p. https://swfsc.noaa.gov/publications/TM/SWFSC/NOAA-TM-NMFS-SWFSC-546.pdf

Hill, K. T., P. R. Crone, E. Dorval, and B. J. Macewicz. 2016. Assessment of the Pacific sardine resource in 2016 for U.S.A. management in 2016-17. US Department of Commerce. NOAA Tech. Memo. NMFS-SWFSC-562, 172 p. https://swfsc.noaa.gov/publications/TM/SWFSC/NOAA-TM-NMFS-SWFSC-562.pdf

Hill, K.T., P.R. Crone, J.P. Zwolinski. 2017. Assessment of the Pacific sardine resource in 2017 for U.S. management in 2017-18. US Department of Commerce. NOAA Tech. Memo. NMFS-SWFSC-576. 262 p. https://swfsc.noaa.gov/publications/TM/SWFSC/NOAA-TM-NMFS-SWFSC-576.pdf

Hill, K.T., P.R. Crone, and J.P. Zwolinski. 2018. Assessment of the Pacific sardine resource in 2018 for U.S. management in 2018-19. US Department of Commerce. NOAA Tech. Memo. NMFS-SWFSC-600. 125 p. https://swfsc.noaa.gov/publications/TM/SWFSC/NOAA-TM-NMFS-SWFSC-600.pdf

Hoenig, J. M. 1983. Empirical use of longevity data to estimate mortality rates. Fishery Bulletin 82:898-905.

Ianelli, J. P. Spencer, G. Thompson, and J. Heifetz. 2013. Report of the working group on methods for averaging surveys: Updated through 2013. Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Seattle, WA. 18 p.

Jacobson, L. J. and A. D. MacCall. 1995. Stock-recruitment models for Pacific sardine (*Sardinops sagax*). Can. J. Fish. Aquat. Sci. 52:566-577.

Janssen, J. F. 1938. Second report of sardine tagging in California. Calif. Fish Game 24(4): 376-389.

Javor, B.J. 2013. Do shifts in otolith morphology of young Pacific sardine (Sardinops sagax) reflect changing recruitment contributions from northern and southern stocks? CalCOFI Rep. 54: 1-12.

Lee, H.H., K.R. Piner, R.D. Methot, Jr., and M.N. Maunder. 2014. Use of likelihood profiling over a global scaling parameter to structure the population dynamics model: an example using blue marlin in the Pacific Ocean. Fish.Res.158:138-146.

Leet, W. S., C. M. Dewees, R. Klingbeil, and E. J. Larson (Eds.). 2001. California's Living Marine Resources: A Status Report. Calif. Dep. Fish and Game. ANR Publication #SG01-11.

Lo, N. C. H., Y. A. Green Ruiz, Merecedes J. Cervantes, H. G. Moser, R. J. Lynn. 1996. Egg production and spawning biomass of Pacific sardine *(Sardinops sagax*) in 1994, determined by the daily egg production method. CalCOFI Rep. 37:160-174.

Lo, N. C. H., B. J. Macewicz, and D. A. Griffith. 2005. Spawning biomass of Pacific sardine (*Sardinops sagax*) from 1994-2004 off California. CalCOFI Rep. 46: 93-112.

Lo, N. C.H., B. J. Macewicz, and D. A. Griffith. 2011. Migration of Pacific sardine (*Sardinops sagax*) off the west coast of United States in 2003-2005. Bull. Mar. Sci. 87(3): 395-412.

MacCall, A. D. 1979. Population estimates for the waning years of the Pacific sardine fishery. CalCOFI Rep. 20: 72-82.

Macewicz, B. J. and D. N. Abramenkoff. 1993. Collection of jack mackerel, *Trachurus symmetricus*, off southern California during 1991 cooperative U.S.-U.S.S.R. cruise. Southwest Fisheries Science Center, National Marine Fisheries Service, Admin. Rep. LJ-93-07. 13 pp.

Macewicz B. J, J. J. Castro-Gonzalez, C. E. Cotero Altamirano, and J. R. Hunter. 1996. Adult reproductive parameters of Pacific Sardine (*Sardinops sagax*) during 1994 CalCOFI Rep 37:140-151.

McClatchie, S., I. L. Hendy, A. R. Thompson, and W. Watson. 2017. Collapse and recovery of forage fish populations prior to commercial exploitation. Geophys. Res. Lett. 44. doi:10.1002/2016GL071751.

McDaniel J., Piner K., Lee H.-H., and Hill K. 2016. Evidence that the Migration of the Northern Subpopulation of Pacific Sardine (*Sardinops sagax*) off the West Coast of the United States Is Age-Based. PLoS ONE 11(11): e0166780.
http://dx.doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0166780

Methot, R. 2005. Technical description of the Stock Synthesis II assessment program. Version 1.17-March 2005. NOAA Fisheries, Seattle, WA.

Methot, R. 2007. User manual for the Integrated analysis program stock synthesis 2 (SS2). Model version 2.00c. March 2007. NOAA Fisheries, Seattle, WA.

Methot, R. 2009. User manual for Stock Synthesis. Model version 3.03a. May 11, 2009. NOAA Fisheries, Seattle, WA. 143 p.

Methot, R. 2011. User manual for Stock Synthesis. Model version 3.21d. May 8, 2011. NOAA Fisheries, Seattle, WA. 165 p.

Methot, R., 2013. User manual for stock synthesis, Model Version 3.24s. NOAA Fisheries, Seattle, WA.

Methot, R.D. and I.G. Taylor. 2011. Adjusting for bias due to variability of estimated recruitments in fishery assessment models. Can. J. Fish. Aquat. Sci., 68:1744-1760.

Methot, R.D., Wetzel, C.R. 2013. Stock Synthesis: A biological and statistical framework for fish stock assessment and fishery management. Fisheries Research 142, 86-99.

Murphy, G. I. 1966. Population biology of the Pacific sardine (*Sardinops caerulea*). Proc. Calif. Acad. Sci. Vol. 34 (1): 1-84.

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). 2019a. California Current Integrated Ecosystem Assessment (CCIEA) California Current Ecosystem Status Report, 2019. PFMC March 2019 Briefing Book, Agenda Item E.1.a, IEA Team Report 1. Pacific Fishery Management Council, 7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101, Portland, OR, 97220. OR. 23 p. https://www.pcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/E1a_IEA_Rpt1_CCIEA-Report-2019-MAR2019BB.pdf

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). 2019b. Supplementary Materials to the California Current Integrated Ecosystem Assessment (CCIEA) California Current Ecosystem Status Report, 2019. PFMC March 2019 Briefing Book, Agenda Item E.1.a, IEA Team Report 2. Pacific Fishery Management Council, 7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101, Portland, OR, 97220. OR. 43 p. https://www.pcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/E1a_IEA_Rpt2_2019-status-report-appendices_MAR2019BB.pdf

Otter Research Ltd. 2001. An introduction to AD Model Builder (Version 6.0.2) for use in nonlinear modeling and statistics. Otter Research Ltd., Sidney, B.C., Canada. 202 p.

PFMC (Pacific Fishery Management Council). 1998. Amendment 8 (to the northern anchovy fishery management plan) incorporating a name change to: the coastal pelagic species fishery management plan. Pacific Fishery Management Council, Portland, OR.

Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC). 2011. Acoustic-trawl survey method for coastal pelagic species. Report of Methodology Review Panel Meeting. PFMC. April 2011 Briefing Book. 31 p.

Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC). 2013. Report of the Pacific Sardine Harvest Parameters Workshop. April 2013 briefing book agenda item I.1.b. Pacific Fishery Management Council. Portland, OR. 65 p. http://www.pcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/I1b_ATT1_SARDINE_WKSHP_RPT_APR2013BB.pdf

Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC). 2017. Status of the Pacific coast coastal pelagic species fishery and recommended acceptable biological catches: Stock assessment and fishery evaluation 2017. Pacific Fishery Management Council, 7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101, Portland, OR, 97220. OR.. https://www.pcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/CPS_SAFE_December2017.pdf

Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC). 2018. Methodology Review Panel Report: Acoustic Trawl Methodology Review For Use In Coastal Pelagic Species Stock Assessments. PFMC April 2018 Briefing Book, Agenda Item C.3, Attachment 2. Pacific Fishery Management Council, 7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101, Portland, OR, 97220. OR. 75 p. https://www.pcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/C3_Att_2_Acoustic-trawl_Methods_Panel_Report_final_Apr2018BB.pdf

Phillips, J. B. 1948. Growth of the sardine, *Sardinops caerulea*, 1941-42 through 1946-47. Calif. Div. Fish Game Fish Bull. 71: 33 p.

Punt, A. E. in press. Some insights into data weighting in integrated stock assessments. Fisheries Research.

Simmonds, E. J. 2011. Center for Independent Experts (CIE) Independent Peer Review Report of Acoustic-Trawl Method Pertaining to Surveys of Coastal Pelagic Fish Species in the California Current Ecosystem. La Jolla, 37 p.

Smith, P.E. 2005. A history of proposals for subpopulation structure in the Pacific sardine (Sardinops sagax) population off western North America. CalCOFI Rep. 46: 75-82.
Soutar, A. and J. D. Isaacs. 1969. History of fish populations inferred from fish scales in anaerobic sediments off California. CalCOFI Rep. 13: 63-70.
Soutar, A., and J. D. Isaacs. 1974. Abundance of pelagic fish during the 19th and 20th centuries as recorded in anaerobic sediment off the Californias. Fish. Bull. 72: 257-273.
STAR (Stock Assessment Review). 2014. Pacific sardine STAR panel meeting report. A. Punt (chair), M. Key, J. De Olivereira, J. Simmonds. Review: NOAA Fisheries, Southwest Fisheries Science Center, La Jolla CA, 92037, March 3-5, 2014. Report: Pacific Fishery Management, Portland, OR, 97220, USA.
STAR (Stock Assessment Review). 2017. Pacific sardine STAR panel meeting report. A. Punt (chair), W. Satterthwaite, E. Brown, J. Vølstad, G. Melvin. Review: NOAA Fisheries, Southwest Fisheries Science Center, La Jolla CA, 92037, February 21-24, 2017. Report: Pacific Fishery Management, Portland, OR, 97220, USA. ? p.
Stierhoff, K. L., Zwolinski, J. P., Renfree, J. S., and Demer, D. A. 2018. Report On The Collection Of Data During The Summer 2017 California Current Ecosystem Survey (1706RL), 19 June To 11 August 2017, Conducted Aboard Fisheries Survey Vessel Reuben Lasker. NOAA Technical Memorandum NMFS-SWFSC-593. https://swfsc.noaa.gov/publications/TM/SWFSC/NOAA-TM-NMFS-SWFSC-593.pdf
Vetter, R. and S. McClatchie. (In Review). The Rewilding of the California Current: Impacts of Recovering Marine Mammal Populations on Forage Fisheries.
Vrooman, A. M. 1964. Serologically differentiated subpopulations of the Pacific sardine, *Sardinops caerulea*. J. Fish. Res. Bd. Canada, 21: 691-701.
Walford, L. A. and K. H. Mosher. 1943. Studies on the Pacific pilchard or sardine (*Sardinops caerulea*). U.S. Dep. Of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, Special Sci. Rep. No. 20. 33 p.
Yaremko, M. L. 1996. Age determination in Pacific sardine, *Sardinops sagax*. NOAA Tech. Mem. NOAA-TM-NMFS-SWFSC-223. 33 p.
Zwolinski, J. P., K. A. Byers, G. R. Cutter Jr., T. S. Sessions, B. J. Macewicz, and D. A. Demer. 2011. Acoustic-trawl survey conducted during the Spring 2011 California Current Ecosystem Survey from FV *Frosti* and FSV *Bell M. Shimada*.
Zwolinski, J. P., Emmett, R. L., and Demer, D. A. 2011. Predicting habitat to optimize sampling of Pacific sardine (*Sardinops sagax*). ICES Journal of Marine Science, 68: 867-879.
Zwolinski, J.P., Demer, D.A. 2013. Measurements of natural mortality for Pacific sardine (*Sardinops sagax*). ICES Journal of Marine Science 70:1,408-1,415.
Zwolinski, J. P., D. A. Demer, K. A. Byers, G. R. Cutter, J. S. Renfree, T. S. Sessions, and B. J. Macewicz. 2012. Distributions and abundances of Pacific sardine (*Sardinops sagax*) and other pelagic fishes in the California Current Ecosystem during spring 2006, 2008, and 2010, estimated from acoustic—trawl surveys. Fish. Bull. 110: 110-122.
Zwolinski, J. P., Demer, D. A., Cutter Jr., G. R., Stierhoff, K., and Macewicz, B. J. 2014. Building on Fisheries Acoustics for Marine Ecosystem Surveys. Oceanography, 27: 68-79.
Zwolinski, J., D. A. Demer, B. J. Macewicz, G. R. Cutter, Jr., B. Elliot, S. Mau, D. Murfin, J. S. Renfree, T. S. Sessions, and K. Stierhoff. 2016. Acoustic-trawl estimates of northern-stock Pacific sardine biomass during 2015. Department of Commerce. NOAA Tech. Memo. NMFS-SWFSC-559, 18 p. https://swfsc.noaa.gov/publications/TM/SWFSC/NOAA-TM-NMFS-SWFSC-559.pdf

Zwolinski, J. P., K. L. Stierhoff, and D. A. Demer. *In press*. Distribution, biomass, and demography of coastal pelagic fishes during summer 2017, estimated from acoustic-trawl sampling. NOAA Technical Memorandum NMFS.

TABLES

Table 1. U.S. Pacific sardine harvest specifications and landings (metric tons) since the onset of federal management. U.S. harvest limits and closures are based on total catch, regardless of subpopulation source. Landings for the 2018-19 management year (*italics*) are preliminary and incomplete.

Mgmt Year	U.S. OFL	U.S. ABC	U.S. HG or ACL	U.S. Total Landings	U.S. NSP Landings
2000	n/a	n/a	186,791	73,766	67,691
2001	n/a	n/a	134,737	79,746	57,019
2002	n/a	n/a	118,442	103,134	82,529
2003	n/a	n/a	110,908	77,728	65,692
2004	n/a	n/a	122,747	96,513	78,430
2005	n/a	n/a	136,179	92,906	76,047
2006	n/a	n/a	118,937	94,337	79,623
2007	n/a	n/a	152,564	131,090	107,595
2008	n/a	n/a	89,093	90,164	80,986
2009	n/a	n/a	66,932	69,903	64,506
2010	n/a	n/a	72,039	69,140	58,578
2011	92,767	84,681	50,526	48,802	42,253
2012	154,781	141,289	109,409	103,600	93,751
2013	103,284	94,281	66,495	67,783	60,767
2014 (1)	59,214	54,052	6,966	6,806	6,121
2014-15	39,210	35,792	23,293	23,113	19,969
2015-16	13,227	12,074	7,000	1,919	260
2016-17	23,085	19,236	8,000	1,800	516
2017-18	16,957	15,479	8,000	1,775	372
2018-19	11,324	9,436	7,000	*1,507*	*43*

Table 2. Pacific sardine landings (mt) for major fishing regions off northern Baja California (Ensenada, Mexico), the United States, and British Columbia (Canada). ENS and SCA landings are presented as totals and northern subpopulation (NSP) portions.

Calendar Yr-Sem	Model Yr-Seas	ENS Total	ENS NSP	SCA Total	SCA NSP	CCA	OR	WA	BC
2005-2	2005-1	37999.5	4396.7	16615.0	1581.4	7824.9	44316.2	6605.0	3231.4
2006-1	2005-2	17600.9	11214.6	18290.5	17117.0	2032.6	101.7	0.0	0.0
2006-2	2006-1	39636.0	0.0	18556.0	5015.7	15710.5	35546.5	4099.0	1575.4
2007-1	2006-2	13981.4	13320.0	27546.0	20567.0	6013.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
2007-2	2007-1	22865.5	11928.2	22047.2	5531.2	28768.8	42052.3	4662.5	1522.3
2008-1	2007-2	23487.8	15618.2	25098.6	24776.6	2515.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
2008-2	2008-1	43378.3	5930.0	8979.6	123.6	24195.7	22939.9	6435.2	10425.0
2009-1	2008-2	25783.2	20244.4	10166.8	9874.2	11079.9	0.0	0.0	0.0
2009-2	2009-1	30128.0	0.0	5214.1	109.3	13935.6	21481.6	8025.2	15334.3
2010-1	2009-2	12989.1	7904.2	20333.5	20333.5	2908.8	437.1	510.9	421.7
2010-2	2010-1	43831.8	9171.2	11261.2	699.2	1403.5	20414.9	11869.6	21801.3
2011-1	2010-2	18513.8	11588.5	13192.2	12958.9	2720.1	0.1	0.0	0.0
2011-2	2011-1	51822.6	17329.6	6498.9	182.5	7359.3	11023.3	8008.4	20718.8
2012-1	2011-2	10534.0	9026.1	12648.6	10491.1	3672.7	2873.9	2931.7	0.0
2012-2	2012-1	48534.6	0.0	8620.7	929.9	598.5	39744.1	32509.6	19172.0
2013-1	2012-2	13609.2	12827.9	3101.9	972.8	84.2	149.3	1421.4	0.0
2013-2	2013-1	37803.5	0.0	4997.3	110.3	811.3	27599.0	29618.9	0.0
2014-1	2013-2	12929.7	412.5	1495.2	809.3	4403.3	0.0	908.0	0.0
2014-2	2014-1	77466.3	0.0	1600.9	0.0	1830.9	7788.4	7428.4	0.0
2015-1	2014-2	16496.6	0.0	1543.2	0.0	727.7	2131.3	62.6	0.0
2015-2	2015-1	20971.9	0.0	1420.9	0.0	6.1	0.1	66.1	0.0
2016-1	2015-2	23536.7	0.0	423.4	184.8	1.1	1.4	0.0	0.0
2016-2	2016-1	42532.1	0.0	964.5	49.4	234.1	2.7	85.2	0.0
2017-1	2016-2	30496.0	9219.9	513.1	144.7	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0
2017-2	2017-1	99966.6	0.0	1205.4	0.0	170.4	1.2	0.0	0.0
2018-1	2017-2	29744.2	11241.9	395.3	197.8	0.0	2.2	0.0	0.0
2018-2	2018-1	50878.2	0.0	1464.2	0.0	35.3	5.9	2.0	0.0

Table 3. Pacific sardine length and age samples available for major fishing regions off northern Baja California (Mexico), the United States, and Canada. Samples from model year 2015-1 onward were from incidental catches so were not included in the model.

Calendar	**Model**	**ENS**	**ENS2**	**SCA**	**SCA3**	**CCA**	**CCA4**	**OR**	**OR5**	**WA**	**WA6**	**BC**	**BC7**
Yr-Sem	Yr-Seas	Length	Age	Length	Age	Length	Age	Length	Age	Length	Age	Length	Age
2005-2	2005-1	115	0	73	72	24	23	14	14	54	27	65	0
2006-1	2005-2	53	0	67	66	32	31	0	0	0	0	0	0
2006-2	2006-1	46	0	61	61	58	58	12	12	15	15	0	0
2007-1	2006-2	22	0	74	72	47	46	3	3	0	0	0	0
2007-2	2007-1	46	0	72	72	68	68	80	80	10	10	23	0
2008-1	2007-2	43	0	53	53	15	15	0	0	0	0	0	0
2008-2	2008-1	83	0	25	25	30	30	80	80	14	14	229	0
2009-1	2008-2	50	0	20	20	20	20	0	0	0	0	0	0
2009-2	2009-1	0	0	13	12	23	23	82	81	12	12	285	0
2010-1	2009-2	0	0	62	62	37	36	3	1	2	2	2	0
2010-2	2010-1	0	0	25	25	13	13	64	26	8	8	287	0
2011-1	2010-2	0	0	22	21	11	11	0	0	0	0	0	0
2011-2	2011-1	0	0	22	22	22	22	34	33	10	10	362	0
2012-1	2011-2	0	0	48	47	16	16	8	8	8	8	0	0
2012-2	2012-1	0	0	44	41	18	17	83	82	37	37	106	0
2013-1	2012-2	0	0	16	16	2	2	0	0	3	3	0	0
2013-2	2013-1	0	0	39	39	5	5	75	74	66	65	0	0
2014-1	2013-2	0	0	27	26	14	13	0	0	1	1	0	0
2014-2	2014-1	0	0	8	8	6	6	27	27	24	23	0	0
2015-1	2014-2	0	0	18	18	14	14	15	15	1	0	0	0
2015-2	2015-1	0	0	0	0	*2*	*2*	0	0	1	0	0	0
2016-1	2015-2	0	0	*8*	*2*	0	0	*4*	0	0	0	0	0
2016-2	2016-1	0	0	*1*	*1*	0	0	*4*	0	0	0	0	0
2017-1	2016-2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2017-2	2017-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2018-1	2017-2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2018-2	2018-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 4. Pacific sardine NSP landings (mt) by year-season and SS fleet for model ALT. Landings data below the dashed line were applied in the forecast file.

Calendar Yr-Sem	Model Yr-Seas	MexCal_S1 NSP Catch (ALT model)	MexCal_S2 NSP Catch (ALT model)	PNW NSP Catch (ALT model)
2005-2	2005-1	13,803.0	0.0	54,152.6
2006-1	2005-2	0.0	30,364.2	101.7
2006-2	2006-1	20,726.2	0.0	41,220.9
2007-1	2006-2	0.0	39,900.3	0.0
2007-2	2007-1	46,228.1	0.0	48,237.1
2008-1	2007-2	0.0	42,910.0	0.0
2008-2	2008-1	30,249.2	0.0	39,800.1
2009-1	2008-2	0.0	41,198.5	0.0
2009-2	2009-1	14,044.9	0.0	44,841.1
2010-1	2009-2	0.0	31,146.5	1,369.7
2010-2	2010-1	11,274.0	0.0	54,085.9
2011-1	2010-2	0.0	27,267.6	0.1
2011-2	2011-1	24,871.4	0.0	39,750.5
2012-1	2011-2	0.0	23,189.9	5,805.6
2012-2	2012-1	1,528.4	0.0	91,425.6
2013-1	2012-2	0.0	13,884.9	1,570.8
2013-2	2013-1	921.6	0.0	57,218.0
2014-1	2013-2	0.0	5,625.0	908.0
2014-2	2014-1	1,830.9	0.0	15,216.8
2015-1	2014-2	0.0	727.7	2,193.9
2015-2	2015-1	6.1	0.0	66.3
2016-1	2015-2	0.0	185.8	1.4
2016-2	2016-1	283.5	0.0	87.9
2017-1	2016-2	0.0	9,364.6	0.1
2017-2	2017-1	170.4	0.0	1.2
2018-1	2017-2	0.0	11,439.7	2.2
2018-2	2018-1	35.3	0.0	7.9
2019-1	2018-2	0.0	11,439.7	2.2
2019-2	2019-1	*35.31*	*0*	*7.9*
2020-1	2019-2	*0*	*11439.68*	*2.2*

Table 5. Fishery-independent indices of Pacific sardine relative abundance. The DEPM time series was not included in model ALT. In the SS model, indices had a lognormal error structure with units of standard error of log*e*(index). Variances of the observations were available as a CVs, so the SEs were approximated as sqrt(log*e*(1+CV^2)). Note that the summer 2017 acoustic survey biomass estimate (36,644 mt (0.29)) used in the 2018 assessment update was erroneous and has been revised in this table and assessment.

Model Yr-Sem	DEPM	S.E. ln(index)	Acoustic	S.E. ln(index)2
2005-2	---	---	1,947,063	0.30
2006-1	---	---	---	---
2006-2	198,404	0.30	---	---
2007-1	---	---	---	---
2007-2	66,395	0.27	751,075	0.09
2008-1	---	---	801,000	0.30
2008-2	99,162	0.24	---	---
2009-1	---	---	---	---
2009-2	58,447	0.40	357,006	0.41
2010-1	---	---	---	---
2010-2	219,386	0.27	493,672	0.30
2011-1	---	---	---	---
2011-2	113,178	0.27	469,480	0.28
2012-1	---	---	340,831	0.33
2012-2	82,182	0.29	305,146	0.24
2013-1	---	---	313,746	0.27
2013-2	---	---	35,339	0.38
2014-1	---	---	26,280	0.63
2014-2	19,376	0.54	29,048	0.29
2015-1	---	---	15,870	0.70
2015-2	5,929	0.54	83,030	0.47
2016-1	---	---	78,770	0.51
2016-2	---	---	---	---
2017-1	---	---	24,349	0.36
2017-2	---	---	---	---
2018-1	---	---	35,501	0.65

Table 6a. Revised Pacific sardine (NSP) biomass estimates by stratum during the summer 2017 AT survey. Estimates (metric tons, t) and their precision (upper and lower 95% confidence intervals, $CI_{95\%}$; standard deviation, SD; and coefficient of variation, CV). Mean biomasses are the point estimates. Stratum areas are nmi^2.

Stratum Number	Stratum Area (nmi^2)	Transect Number	Transect Distance (nmi)	Trawls Cluster number	Trawls Number of Sardine	Biomass (t) Point	Biomass (t) Lower $CI_{95\%}$	Biomass (t) Upper $CI_{95\%}$	Biomass (t) SD	Biomass (t) CV (%)
1	5,078	7	260	2	10	847	17	2,304	751	89
2	12,622	12	621	5	296	769	37	1,450	377	49
3	17,221	31	1,714	12	2,320	22,528	8,961	43,436	8,910	40
4	399	14	81	4	102	201	57	388	86	43
5	110	5	23	1	3	1	0	2	1	50
6	135	5	27	1	1	1	0	3	1	60
All	35,564	74	2,726	19	2,732	24,349	10,531	45,855	8,926	37

Table 6b. Pacific sardine (NSP) biomass estimates by stratum during the summer 2018 AT survey. Estimates (metric tons, t) and their precision (upper and lower 95% confidence intervals, $CI_{95\%}$; standard deviation, SD; and coefficient of variation, CV). Mean biomasses are the point estimates. Stratum areas are nmi^2.

Stratum Number	Stratum Area (nmi^2)	Transect Number	Transect Distance (nmi)	Trawls Cluster number	Trawls Number of Sardine	Biomass (t) Point	Biomass (t) Lower $CI_{95\%}$	Biomass (t) Upper $CI_{95\%}$	Biomass (t) SD	Biomass (t) CV (%)
2	6201	12	657	7	202	2002	419	4246	1021	51
3	17240	37	1778	13	2324	33475	3563	86297	25875	77
4	335	19	213	3	20	23	31	42	3	11
All	23776	68	2648	20	2546	35501	5169	89103	25975	73

Table 7. Pacific sardine abundance versus standard length and age for the summer 2017 and 2018 surveys.

SL (cm)	2017 Abundance (millions)	2018 Abundance (millions)
4	0.000	0.000
5	0.000	0.000
6	0.949	0.000
7	1.423	0.000
8	1.423	1.141
9	37.979	2.237
10	37.979	21.784
11	0.000	41.220
12	0.000	35.476
13	0.000	10.673
14	0.000	0.000
15	0.000	13.959
16	0.000	26.026
17	0.023	24.841
18	6.348	2.981
19	1.459	0.551
20	22.633	0.255
21	42.071	0.792
22	58.771	1.245
23	25.202	18.233
24	4.366	60.080
25	3.553	55.520
26	6.433	12.421
27	0.377	0.324
28	0.000	2.356
29	0.000	0.000
30	0.000	0.000
Total	250.991	332.116

Age	2017 Abundance (millions)	2018 Abundance (millions)
0	77.555	94.573
1	5.186	37.011
2	38.138	41.095
3	66.912	54.561
4	41.748	39.684
5	10.367	27.597
6	5.127	18.047
7	3.780	11.331
8	1.895	7.271
9+	0.282	0.946
Total	250.991	332.116

Table 8. Model parameterizations and data components for the ALT-2017-19 and T_2016/T_2017 assessment models.

PARAMETERIZATIONS:	Assessment Model & Year: T-2016 & T-2017[a]	Assessment Model & Year: ALT 2017-19
Time period	1993-16 / 1993-17	2005-17 / 2005-18 / 2005-19
Surveys	AT, DEPM, TEP	AT
Fisheries	MEX-CAL, PNW	MEX-CAL, PNW
Longevity	15 years	10 years
Natural mortality	Fix (M=0.4)	Fix (M=0.6)
Growth	Estimated	Emp. weight-at-age
Stock-recruitment	Beverton-Holt (h fix=0.80)	Beverton-Holt (h est.)
Selectivity	Length data/Length-based	Age data/Age-based
Catchability	AT (Q fix=1.0)	AT (Q est=1.1/1.14/1.17)
DATA COMPONENTS:	—	-
Fishery Data:	-	-
Catch	Yes	Yes
Length comps	Yes	No
Age comps (cond. age-at-length)	Yes	No
Age comps (aggregated)	No	Yes
Emp. weight-at-age	No	Yes
Survey Data:	-	-
AT abundance series (spring)	Yes	No
AT abundance series (summer)	Yes	No
AT abundance series (annual)	No	Yes
DEPM abundance series	Yes	No
TEP abundance series	Yes	No
AT length comps	Yes	No
AT age comps (cond. age-at-length)	Yes	No
AT age comps (aggregated)	No	Yes
AT emp. weigth-at-age	No	Yes

[a] T_2016 is the last assessment model that was used for management in 2016 and T_2017 is a similarly parameterized model as T_2016, with updated sample information (e.g., catch, abundance, and composition data).

Table 9. Likelihood components and important derived quantities for model ALT in 2018, ALT 2018 with corrected AT estimate, and ALT-2019. Model 'ALT 2019a', a bridging model, represents the 2019 update model excluding the summer 2018 AT age composition.

LIKELIHOODS:	ALT 2018	ALT 2018 Corrected 2017 AT	ALT 2019a	ALT 2019
AT survey index	4.58211	5.66197	5.08582	5.07545
MEXCAL_S1 age composition	50.6458	50.5647	50.5368	50.6594
MEXCAL_S2 age composition	75.3499	75.0120	74.8423	75.3223
PNW age composition	90.0244	90.1415	90.2400	90.1849
AT Survey age composition	100.1160	99.5054	99.4944	105.3680
Catch	2.75613E-13	3.18205E-13	5.32194E-13	5.84207E-13
Recruitment	23.1798	23.9971	23.6631	23.8805
Parameter softbounds	2.2321E-03	2.2303E-03	2.2274E-03	2.2228E-03
TOTAL	**343.900**	**344.885**	**343.865**	**350.493**
MODEL ESTIMATES:				
Stock-recruitment (lnR_0)	14.0139	13.946	13.9327	13.8649
Stock-recruitment steepness (*h*)	0.322	0.318	0.310	0.304
Spawning stock biomass 2017 (mt)	42,441	39,619	38,426	39,848
Recruitment 2017 (billions of fish)	1.181	1.123	0.732	0.446
Spawning stock biomass 2018 (mt)	**--**	**--**	**28,358**	**28,481**
Recruitment 2018 (billions of fish)	**--**	**--**	**0.851**	**0.851**
Stock biomass peak (mt)	1,774,780	1,767,240	1,761,900	1,760,640
Stock (1+) biomass 2018 (mt)	**52,065**	**47,075**	**31,661**	**25,642**
Stock biomass (1+) 2019 (mt)	**--**	**--**	**32,828**	**27,547**

Table 10. Parameter estimates and asymptotic standard errors for model ALT in 2018 and 2019.

Parameter	Phase	Min	Max	Initial	ALT 2018 update Final	ALT 2018 update Std Dev	ALT 2019 update Final	ALT 2019 update Std Dev
NatM_p_1_Fem_GP_1	-3	0.3	0.8	0.6	0.6	_	0.6	_
Wtlen_1_Fem	-3	-3	3	7.5242E-06	7.524E-06	_	7.524E-06	_
Wtlen_2_Fem	-3	-3	5	3.2332	3.2332	_	3.2332	_
SR_LN(R0)	1	3	25	15	14.0139	0.289156	13.8649	0.283401
SR_BH_steep	5	0.2	1	0.5	0.322008	0.077701	0.30441	0.0617607
SR_sigmaR	-3	0	2	0.75	0.75	_	0.75	_
SR_R1_offset	2	-15	15	0	1.93998	0.462517	2.01545	0.461624
Early_InitAge_6	_	_	_	_	-0.349484	0.613936	-0.352509	0.613399
Early_InitAge_5	_	_	_	_	-0.374821	0.55623	-0.376727	0.55582
Early_InitAge_4	_	_	_	_	-0.346425	0.502764	-0.343228	0.502512
Early_InitAge_3	_	_	_	_	0.283601	0.419336	0.29257	0.419036
Early_InitAge_2	_	_	_	_	1.79347	0.35709	1.84049	0.356481
Early_InitAge_1	_	_	_	_	1.30097	0.455785	1.3656	0.455139
Main_RecrDev_2005	_	_	_	_	1.42687	0.191803	1.46901	0.195395
Main_RecrDev_2006	_	_	_	_	1.31159	0.1985	1.34913	0.201351
Main_RecrDev_2007	_	_	_	_	0.618055	0.211092	0.653744	0.213952
Main_RecrDev_2008	_	_	_	_	1.29603	0.177282	1.32472	0.181273
Main_RecrDev_2009	_	_	_	_	1.45447	0.161486	1.47193	0.166535
Main_RecrDev_2010	_	_	_	_	-1.03229	0.240078	-1.00745	0.24252
Main_RecrDev_2011	_	_	_	_	-2.44698	0.327376	-2.42273	0.329618
Main_RecrDev_2012	_	_	_	_	-2.01895	0.319042	-1.98873	0.320137
Main_RecrDev_2013	_	_	_	_	-0.040193	0.283286	0.0105243	0.267001
Main_RecrDev_2014	_	_	_	_	-0.601107	0.461332	-0.555001	0.443996
Main_RecrDev_2015	_	_	_	_	-0.431809	0.397114	-0.489389	0.38094
Main_RecrDev_2016	_	_	_	_	0.464308	0.724828	-0.307919	0.39105
Late/Main Recr_2017	_	_	_	_	0	0.75	0.492161	0.726371
Fore/Late Recr_2018	_	_	_	_	0	0.75	0	0.75
ForeRecr_2019	_	_	_	_	_	_	0	0.75
InitF_1MexCal_S1	1	0	3	1	1.02131	0.63168	0.945253	0.628073
LnQ_base_5_AT_Survey	4	-3	3	1	0.138785	0.105858	0.157183	0.1038
AgeSel_1P_1_MexCal_S1	3	-5	9	0.1	2	156.521	1.99996	156.521
AgeSel_1P_2_MexCal_S1	3	-5	9	0.1	3.84191	0.903196	3.8436	0.903841
AgeSel_1P_3_MexCal_S1	3	-5	9	0.1	0.751403	0.160726	0.749174	0.160671
AgeSel_1P_4_MexCal_S1	3	-5	9	0.1	-1.47349	0.376243	-1.47011	0.375035
AgeSel_1P_5_MexCal_S1	3	-5	9	0.1	-0.224209	0.565942	-0.220383	0.56423
AgeSel_1P_6_MexCal_S1	3	-5	9	0.1	-0.977939	1.37019	-0.98764	1.37971
AgeSel_1P_7_MexCal_S1	3	-5	9	0.1	-0.133586	2.4841	-0.128496	2.49656
AgeSel_1P_8_MexCal_S1	3	-5	9	0.1	-0.366452	4.06867	-0.369091	4.09413
AgeSel_1P_9_MexCal_S1	3	-5	9	0.1	-0.196966	2.85516	-0.176397	2.85229
AgeSel_1P_10_MexCal_S1	-3	-1000	9	-1000	-1000	_	-1000	_
AgeSel_1P_11_MexCal_S1	-3	-1000	9	-1000	-1000	_	-1000	_
AgeSel_2P_1_MexCal_S2	3	-5	9	0.1	1.99999	156.521	1.99993	156.521
AgeSel_2P_2_MexCal_S2	3	-5	9	0.1	0.65482	0.132195	0.650881	0.131968
AgeSel_2P_3_MexCal_S2	3	-5	9	0.1	-0.998388	0.19304	-1.00937	0.193189
AgeSel_2P_4_MexCal_S2	3	-5	9	0.1	-0.62483	0.34461	-0.63015	0.344327
AgeSel_2P_5_MexCal_S2	3	-5	9	0.1	-0.558208	0.574015	-0.537593	0.572274
AgeSel_2P_6_MexCal_S2	3	-5	9	0.1	0.506037	0.760392	0.488152	0.761481
AgeSel_2P_7_MexCal_S2	3	-5	9	0.1	-0.204335	1.12514	-0.168181	1.12372
AgeSel_2P_8_MexCal_S2	3	-5	9	0.1	0.561974	1.70301	0.595521	1.67115
AgeSel_2P_9_MexCal_S2	3	-5	9	0.1	-1.15629	2.60663	-1.13873	2.5953
AgeSel_2P_10_MexCal_S2	-3	-1000	9	-1000	-1000	_	-1000	_
AgeSel_2P_11_MexCal_S2	-3	-1000	9	-1000	-1000	_	-1000	_
AgeSel_3P_1_PNW	4	0	10	5	3.33245	0.139537	3.33502	0.138639
AgeSel_3P_2_PNW	4	-5	15	1	1.35228	0.117881	1.35465	0.117715

Table 11. Pacific sardine northern subpopulation numbers-at-age (1,000s) for model ALT-2019.

Calendar Yr-Sem	Model Yr-Seas	Age 0	Age 1	Age 2	Age 3	Age 4	Age 5	Age 6	Age 7	Age 8	Age 9	Age 10+
---	VIRG	1,050,620	576,594	316,441	173,667	95,310	52,307	28,707	15,755	8,646	4,745	5,772
---	VIRG	778,320	427,151	234,426	128,655	70,608	38,750	21,267	11,671	6,405	3,515	4,276
---	INIT	7,883,970	4,306,160	1,890,060	646,606	318,327	160,118	85,068	45,372	24,414	13,179	15,590
---	INIT	5,812,700	2,551,310	872,827	429,697	216,137	114,829	61,246	32,956	17,790	9,629	11,416
2005-2	2005-1	24,770,700	13,529,600	9,772,470	727,790	194,182	96,677	53,859	45,372	24,414	13,179	15,590
2006-1	2005-2	18,340,600	9,906,390	6,922,830	454,219	94,599	43,368	23,879	20,096	10,813	5,837	6,906
2006-2	2006-1	7,622,380	13,338,200	7,083,330	5,062,410	334,042	69,724	31,877	17,569	14,719	7,974	9,422
2007-1	2006-2	5,644,510	9,739,920	5,057,190	3,529,820	215,206	43,851	19,976	11,011	9,226	4,999	5,907
2007-2	2007-1	6,831,930	4,062,840	6,827,860	3,671,820	2,587,080	158,434	32,156	14,672	8,030	6,801	8,071
2008-1	2007-2	5,056,550	2,893,890	4,629,660	2,550,980	1,686,030	101,857	20,620	9,419	5,158	4,370	5,189
2008-2	2008-1	3,362,190	3,533,420	1,916,690	3,292,560	1,849,180	1,233,280	73,912	15,011	6,760	3,783	7,067
2009-1	2008-2	2,488,230	2,502,280	1,285,800	2,310,420	1,241,490	823,359	49,270	10,021	4,516	2,528	4,725
2009-2	2009-1	6,383,870	1,719,450	1,622,270	907,348	1,667,860	905,916	595,116	35,748	7,149	3,305	5,362
2010-1	2009-2	4,725,490	1,231,490	1,112,970	632,545	1,091,370	584,212	382,787	23,015	4,604	2,130	3,456
2010-2	2010-1	7,035,220	3,253,060	792,568	783,067	455,117	791,971	419,308	275,809	16,289	3,348	4,104
2011-1	2010-2	5,207,290	2,329,280	541,218	527,582	273,490	460,915	242,806	159,811	9,442	1,942	2,381
2011-2	2011-1	556,796	3,701,660	1,594,270	389,545	384,885	200,797	336,499	177,666	115,767	6,945	3,197
2012-1	2011-2	411,996	2,611,670	1,055,150	260,410	229,595	116,388	194,107	102,609	66,900	4,015	1,850
2012-2	2012-1	129,561	290,744	1,762,300	753,549	186,256	161,308	80,532	134,503	70,255	46,633	4,114
2013-1	2012-2	95,911	213,294	1,234,720	415,370	66,403	49,626	24,267	40,439	21,118	14,018	1,237
2013-2	2013-1	170,464	64,370	130,736	852,499	293,967	47,087	34,562	16,982	27,623	14,961	10,937
2014-1	2013-2	126,194	47,010	91,474	501,941	124,058	17,780	12,846	6,303	10,252	5,553	4,060
2014-2	2014-1	926,669	82,926	27,672	62,261	353,485	88,206	12,398	9,013	4,295	7,301	6,957
2015-1	2014-2	685,549	57,996	17,975	41,399	209,567	50,893	7,120	5,184	2,472	4,205	4,009
2015-2	2015-1	374,181	498,404	41,432	13,105	29,911	147,842	35,486	4,963	3,597	1,727	5,753
2016-1	2015-2	277,199	369,163	30,680	9,702	22,124	109,325	26,240	3,670	2,659	1,277	4,254
2016-2	2016-1	360,443	204,652	271,694	22,674	7,178	16,377	80,888	19,418	2,714	1,969	4,097
2017-1	2016-2	266,992	150,815	199,021	16,734	5,291	12,079	59,660	14,325	2,002	1,453	3,023
2017-2	2017-1	445,779	148,793	64,734	120,845	11,151	3,684	8,090	40,587	9,092	1,411	3,287
2018-1	2017-2	330,196	109,530	47,315	89,246	8,240	2,727	5,988	30,049	6,732	1,045	2,434
2018-2	2018-1	851,448	153,768	33,319	25,342	55,623	5,518	1,713	3,860	17,298	4,600	2,543
2019-1	2018-2	630,742	113,696	24,583	18,753	41,158	4,084	1,268	2,858	12,806	3,405	1,882
2019-2	2019-1	428,684	307,786	37,830	13,604	11,893	27,841	2,609	829	1,687	8,821	3,848

Table 12. Pacific sardine northern subpopulation biomass-at-age for model ALT-2019.

Calendar Yr-Sem	Model Yr-Seas	Age 0	Age 1	Age 2	Age 3	Age 4	Age 5	Age 6	Age 7	Age 8	Age 9	Age 10+	Total Ages 0+	Total Ages 1+
---	VIRG	7,880	27,042	24,208	18,061	12,133	7,626	4,593	2,689	1,543	874	1,117	107,768	99,888
---	VIRG	25,451	26,355	21,262	14,950	9,680	5,944	3,524	2,041	1,163	656	831	111,858	86,407
---	INIT	59,130	201,959	144,590	67,247	40,523	23,345	13,611	7,745	4,358	2,428	3,018	567,953	508,823
---	INIT	190,075	157,416	79,165	49,931	29,632	17,615	10,148	5,764	3,231	1,796	2,219	546,992	356,917
2005-2	2005-1	185,780	634,538	747,594	75,690	24,719	14,095	8,617	7,745	4,358	2,428	3,018	1,708,584	1,522,803
2006-1	2005-2	599,738	611,224	627,901	52,780	12,970	6,653	3,957	3,515	1,964	1,089	1,343	1,923,131	1,323,394
2006-2	2006-1	57,168	625,562	541,875	526,491	42,524	10,166	5,100	2,999	2,627	1,469	1,824	1,817,804	1,760,636
2007-1	2006-2	184,575	600,953	458,687	410,165	29,505	6,727	3,310	1,926	1,675	932	1,148	1,699,604	1,515,029
2007-2	2007-1	51,239	190,547	522,331	381,869	329,335	23,100	5,145	2,504	1,433	1,253	1,563	1,510,320	1,459,081
2008-1	2007-2	165,349	178,553	419,910	296,424	231,155	15,625	3,417	1,647	937	815	1,009	1,314,840	1,149,491
2008-2	2008-1	25,216	165,717	146,627	342,426	235,401	179,812	11,826	2,562	1,207	697	1,368	1,112,860	1,087,643
2009-1	2008-2	81,365	154,391	116,622	268,471	170,208	126,303	8,164	1,753	820	471	919	929,487	848,122
2009-2	2009-1	47,879	80,642	124,104	94,364	212,319	132,083	95,219	6,102	1,276	609	1,038	795,634	747,755
2010-1	2009-2	154,524	75,983	100,946	73,502	149,627	89,618	63,428	4,025	836	397	672	713,558	559,034
2010-2	2010-1	52,764	152,569	60,631	81,439	57,936	115,469	67,089	47,081	2,908	617	795	639,298	586,533
2011-1	2010-2	170,278	143,717	49,088	61,305	37,495	70,704	40,233	27,951	1,715	362	463	603,312	433,033
2011-2	2011-1	4,176	173,608	121,962	40,513	48,996	29,276	53,840	30,328	20,664	1,279	619	525,260	521,084
2012-1	2011-2	13,472	161,140	95,702	30,260	31,477	17,854	32,164	17,946	12,149	749	360	413,273	399,800
2012-2	2012-1	972	13,636	134,816	78,369	23,710	23,519	12,885	22,960	12,541	8,590	796	332,793	331,822
2013-1	2012-2	3,136	13,160	111,989	48,266	9,104	7,613	4,021	7,073	3,835	2,614	240	211,052	207,915
2013-2	2013-1	1,278	3,019	10,001	88,660	37,422	6,865	5,530	2,899	4,931	2,756	2,117	165,478	164,200
2014-1	2013-2	4,127	2,900	8,297	58,326	17,008	2,727	2,129	1,102	1,862	1,036	789	100,303	96,176
2014-2	2014-1	6,950	3,889	2,117	6,475	44,999	12,860	1,984	1,539	767	1,345	1,347	84,271	77,321
2015-1	2014-2	22,417	3,578	1,630	4,811	28,732	7,807	1,180	907	449	784	779	73,074	50,657
2015-2	2015-1	2,806	23,375	3,170	1,363	3,808	21,555	5,678	847	642	318	1,114	64,676	61,869
2016-1	2015-2	9,064	22,777	2,783	1,127	3,033	16,770	4,348	642	483	238	827	62,093	53,029
2016-2	2016-1	2,703	9,598	20,785	2,358	914	2,388	12,942	3,315	484	363	793	56,643	53,939
2017-1	2016-2	8,731	9,305	18,051	1,944	725	1,853	9,886	2,505	364	271	588	54,223	45,492
2017-2	2017-1	3,343	6,978	4,952	12,568	1,420	537	1,294	6,928	1,623	260	636	40,540	37,197
2018-1	2017-2	10,797	6,758	4,292	10,370	1,130	418	992	5,256	1,223	195	473	41,904	31,106
2018-2	2018-1	6,386	7,212	2,549	2,636	7,081	804	274	659	3,088	847	492	32,028	25,642
2019-1	2018-2	20,625	7,015	2,230	2,179	5,643	627	210	500	2,326	635	366	42,355	21,730
2019-2	2019-1	3,215	14,435	2,894	1,415	1,514	4,059	417	142	301	1,625	745	30,762	**27,547**

Table 13. Spawning stock biomass (SSB) and recruitment (Recruits) estimates and asymptotic standard errors for model ALT-2019. SSB estimates were calculated at the beginning of Season 2 of each model year (January). Recruits were age-0 fish calculated at the beginning of each model year (July).

Calendar Yr-Sem	Model Yr-Seas	SSB (mt)	SSB Std Dev	Year class abundance (1,000s)	YC Std Dev
---	VIRG-1	---	---	1,050,620	297,748
---	VIRG-2	74,466	21,104	---	---
---	INIT-1	---	---	7,883,970	3,603,220
---	INIT-2	301,147	82,359	---	---
2005-2	2005-1	---	---	24,770,700	---
2006-1	2005-2	1,051,190	74,638	---	---
2006-2	2006-1	---	---	7,622,380	888,087
2007-1	2006-2	1,194,360	74,296	---	---
2007-2	2007-1	---	---	6,831,930	750,309
2008-1	2007-2	1,013,150	62,090	---	---
2008-2	2008-1	---	---	3,362,190	503,580
2009-1	2008-2	756,584	45,137	---	---
2009-2	2009-1	---	---	6,383,870	626,151
2010-1	2009-2	524,418	31,480	---	---
2010-2	2010-1	---	---	7,035,220	728,952
2011-1	2010-2	382,967	24,480	---	---
2011-2	2011-1	---	---	556,796	136,539
2012-1	2011-2	315,887	23,576	---	---
2012-2	2012-1	---	---	129,561	46,429
2013-1	2012-2	183,221	20,432	---	---
2013-2	2013-1	---	---	170,464	59,722
2014-1	2013-2	90,715	14,844	---	---
2014-2	2014-1	---	---	926,669	260,882
2015-1	2014-2	50,999	10,378	---	---
2015-2	2015-1	---	---	374,181	165,051
2016-1	2015-2	43,802	8,684	---	---
2016-2	2016-1	---	---	360,443	133,797
2017-1	2016-2	39,848	7,660	---	---
2017-2	2017-1	---	---	445,779	178,128
2018-1	2017-2	28,481	6,610	---	---
2018-2	2018-1	---	---	851,448	659,686
2019-1	2018-2	21,038	6,894	---	---
2019-2	2019-1	---	---	---	---
2020-1	2019-2	19,502	12,069	---	---

Table 14. Convergence tests for model ALT-2019, where randomized phase orders and 20% initial parameter jittering were applied to a range (13.2-15.1) of initial starting values of R_0.

Initial R_0	R_0*	R_1*	B-H (*h*)*	Init *F**	ln(*q*)*	Selex*	Final R_0 - Results	Total -log(L) - Results
13.2	1	5	2	1	3	4	13.8649	350.493
13.3	3	1	4	3	2	5	13.8649	350.493
13.4	2	4	1	2	5	3	13.8649	350.493
13.5	4	5	3	4	1	2	13.8649	350.493
13.6	5	2	4	5	3	1	13.8649	350.493
13.7	5	1	2	5	4	3	13.8649	350.493
13.8	3	5	2	3	4	1	13.8649	350.493
13.9	2	3	5	2	1	4	13.8649	350.493
14.0	1	3	2	1	5	4	13.8649	350.493
14.1	4	1	3	4	2	5	13.8649	350.493
14.2	2	3	4	2	5	1	13.8649	350.493
14.3	4	2	3	4	1	5	13.8649	350.493
14.4	1	3	2	1	4	5	13.8649	350.493
14.5	5	3	4	5	2	1	13.8649	350.493
14.6	3	1	5	3	4	2	13.8649	350.493
14.7	3	1	5	3	4	2	13.8649	350.493
14.8	2	3	1	2	5	4	13.8649	350.493
14.9	5	4	3	5	2	1	13.8649	350.493
15.0	1	5	2	1	3	4	13.8649	350.493
15.1	4	1	5	4	2	3	13.8649	350.493

*PHASE ORDER BY COMPONENT

Table 15. Harvest control rules for the 2019-20 management cycle. SSB is projected to be 19,502 mt (SD=12,069 mt; CV=61.9%) in January 2020, so the corresponding Sigma for calculating P-star buffers is 0.57 rather than the default value (0.50) for Tier 1 assessments. ABC calculations based on sigma values ($Sigma_{Tier\ 1}$=0.57, $Sigma_{Tier\ 2}$=1.0) are provided below.

Harvest Control Rule Formulas
OFL = BIOMASS * EMSY * DISTRIBUTION;   where EMSY is bounded 0.00 to 0.25
ABCP-star = BIOMASS * BUFFERP-star * EMSY * DISTRIBUTION;   where EMSY is bounded 0.00 to 0.25
HG = (BIOMASS - CUTOFF) * FRACTION * DISTRIBUTION;   where FRACTION is EMSY bounded 0.05 to 0.20

Table 15a. Harvest Formula Parameters

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4	Column 5	Column 6	Column 7	Column 8	Column 9	Column 10
BIOMASS (ages 1+, mt)	27,547	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
P-star	0.45	0.40	0.35	0.30	0.25	0.20	0.15	0.10	0.05
ABC $Buffer_{(Sigma\ 0.570)}$	0.93093	0.86564	0.80296	0.74181	0.68103	0.61920	0.55417	0.48196	0.39188
ABC $Buffer_{Tier\ 2}$	0.88191	0.77620	0.68023	0.59191	0.50942	0.43101	0.35472	0.27761	0.19304
CalCOFI SST (2016-2018)	16.1123	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
EMSY	0.242675	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
FRACTION	0.200000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CUTOFF (mt)	150,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
DISTRIBUTION (U.S.)	0.87	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table 15b. Harvest Control Rule Values (MT)

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4	Column 5	Column 6	Column 7	Column 8	Column 9	Column 10
OFL =	**5,816**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
$ABC_{Tier\ 1}$ =	5,414	5,034	4,670	4,314	3,961	3,601	3,223	2,803	2,279
$ABC_{Tier\ 2}$ =	5,129	4,514	3,956	3,443	2,963	2,507	2,063	1,615	1,123
HG =	**0**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table 16. CalCOFI annual and three-year average sea surface temperatures (SST, °C) since 1984. Three-year average SST is used to calculate E_{MSY} in the harvest control rules.

Calendar year	CalCOFI Annual SST	CalCOFI 3-yr average SST
1984	16.3533	---
1985	15.7605	---
1986	15.9823	16.0320
1987	16.2973	16.0134
1988	15.7851	16.0216
1989	15.4632	15.8485
1990	15.9946	15.7476
1991	15.7998	15.7525
1992	16.7028	16.1657
1993	16.4182	16.3069
1994	16.4762	16.5324
1995	15.9241	16.2729
1996	16.3252	16.2419
1997	16.6950	16.3148
1998	16.7719	16.5973
1999	15.2843	16.2504
2000	15.7907	15.9490
2001	15.5535	15.5429
2002	14.9414	15.4285
2003	16.0328	15.5092
2004	15.8849	15.6197
2005	15.4585	15.7920
2006	15.9157	15.7530
2007	15.1543	15.5095
2008	15.2724	15.4475
2009	15.3583	15.2617
2010	15.5520	15.3942
2011	15.5618	15.4907
2012	15.2927	15.4688
2013	14.9051	15.2532
2014	14.1932	14.7970
2015	17.4718	15.5234
2016	16.3254	15.9968
2017	16.1201	16.6391
2018	15.8916	16.1123

FIGURES

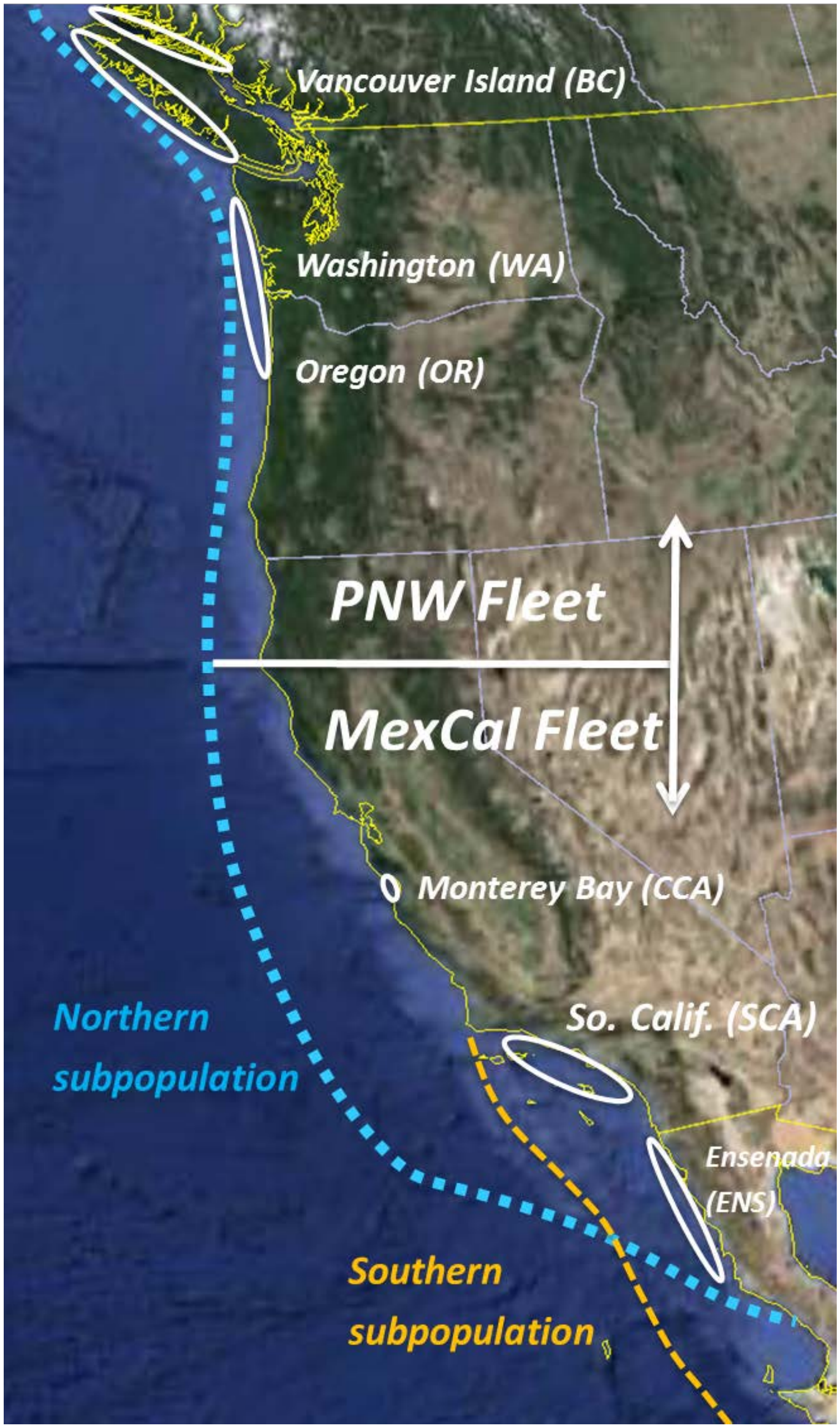


Figure 1. Distribution of the northern subpopulation of Pacific sardine, primary commercial fishing areas, and modeled fleets.

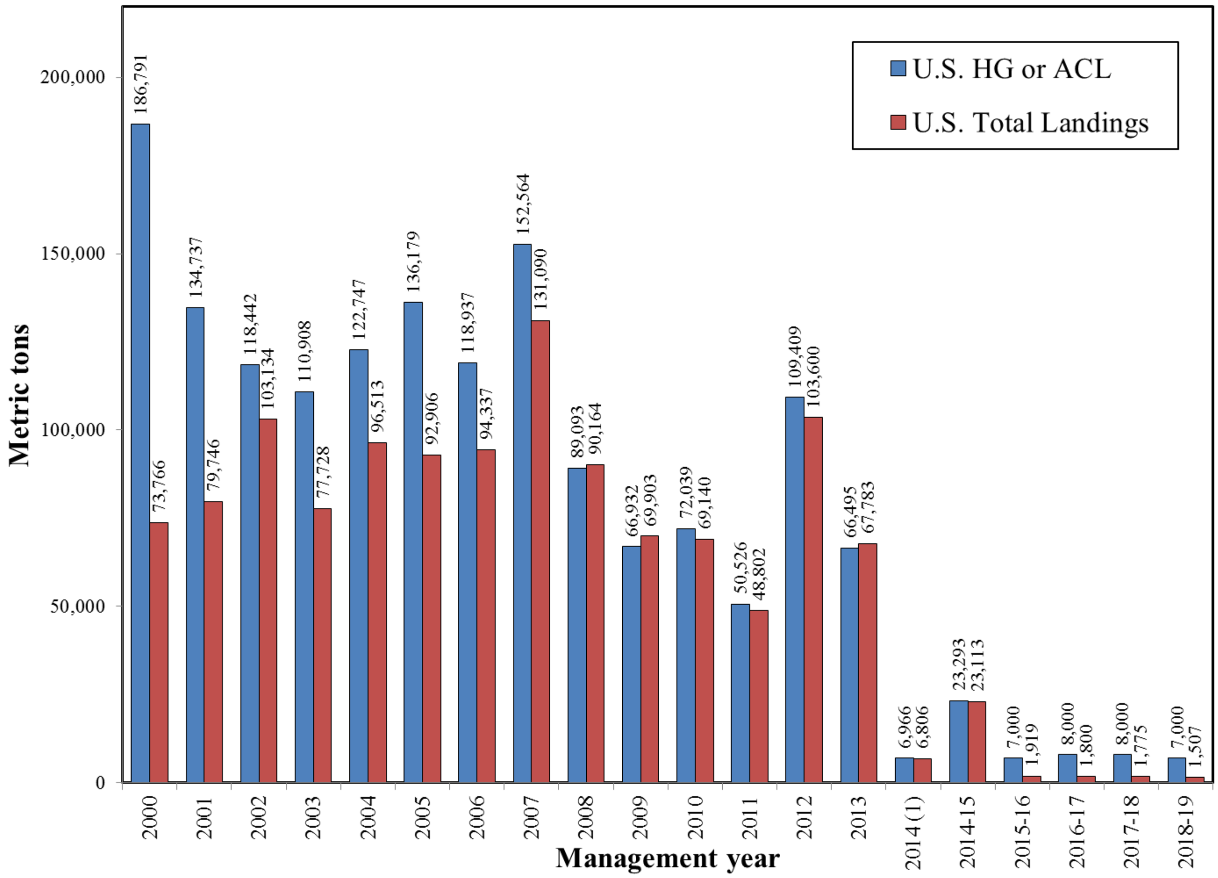


Figure 2. U.S. Pacific sardine harvest guidelines or acceptable catch limits and landings since the onset of federal management.

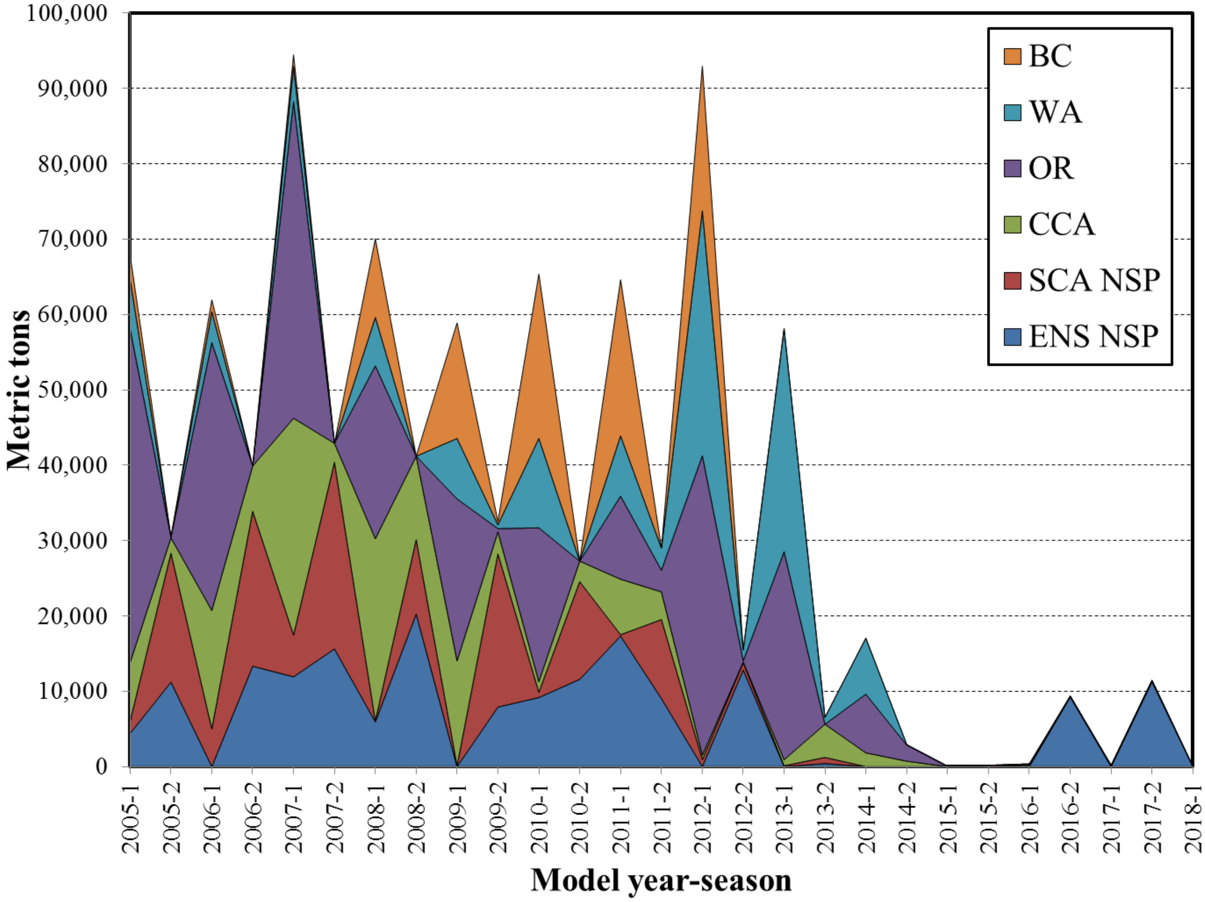


Figure 3. Pacific sardine NSP landings (mt) by major fishing region.

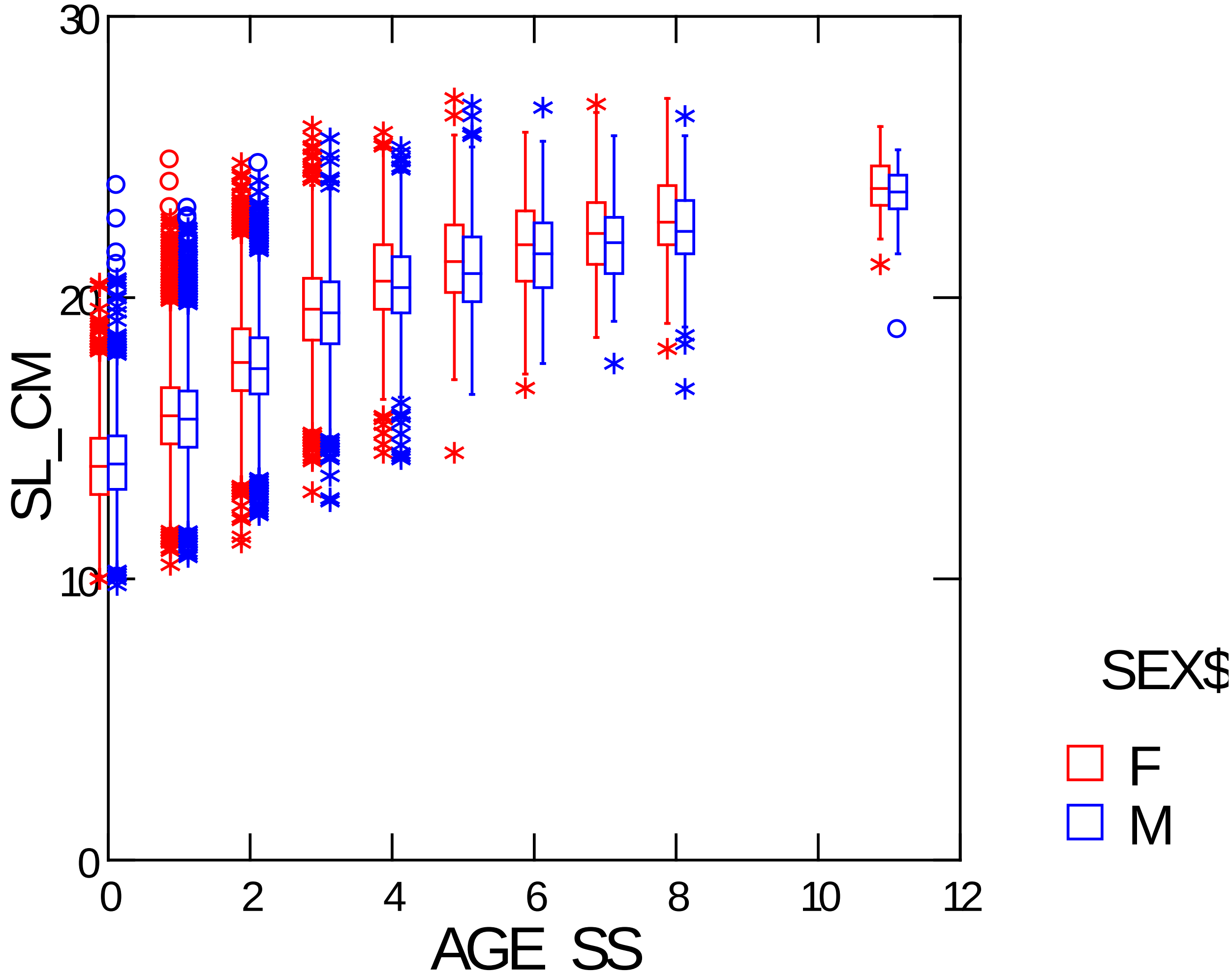


Figure 4. Length-at-age by sex from NSP fishery samples (1993-2013; Hill et al. 2014), indicating lack of sexually dimorphic growth. Box symbols indicate median and quartile ranges for the raw data.

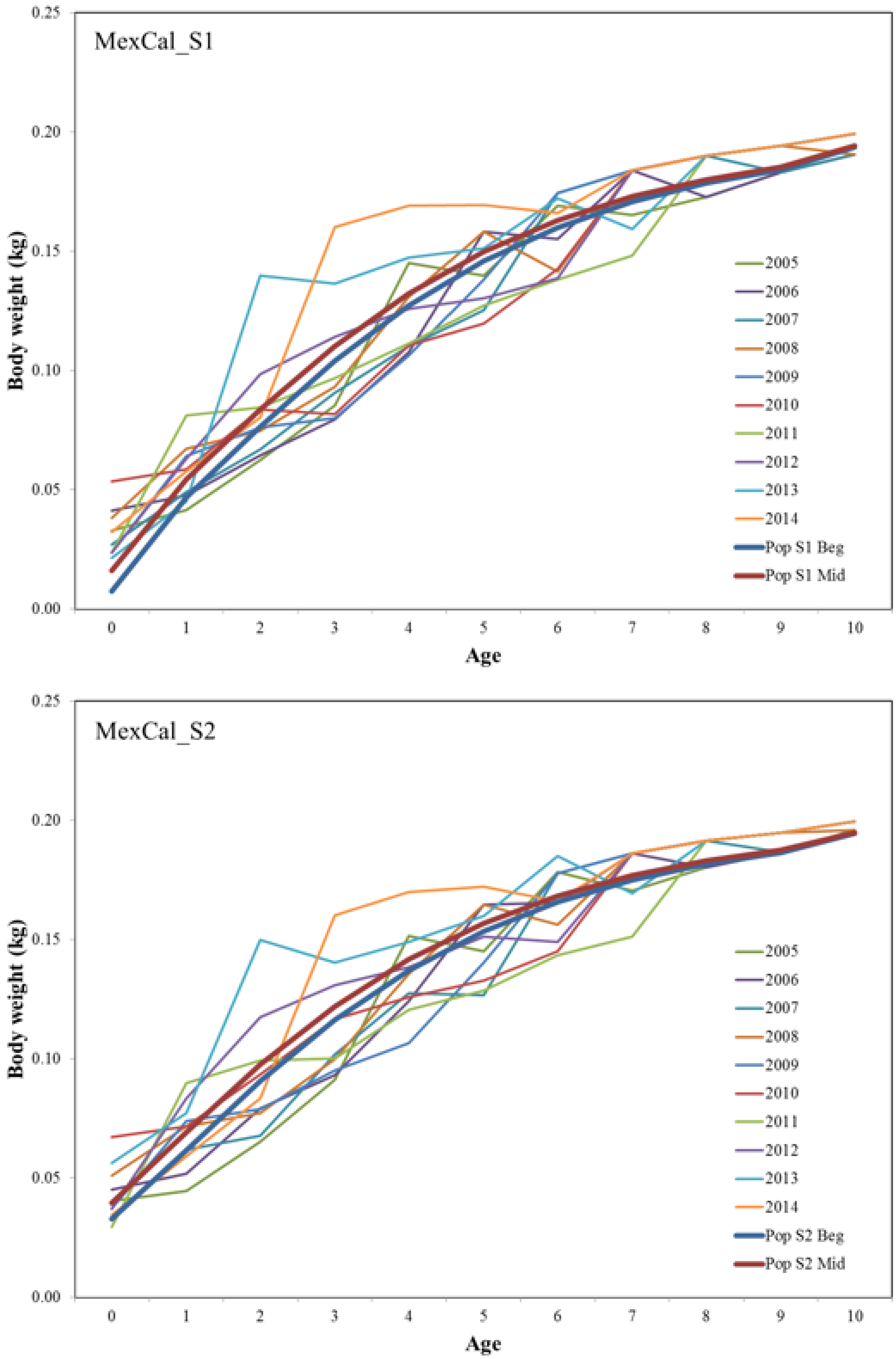


Figure 5. Empirical weight-at-age time series for the MEXCAL fleet in seasons 1 and 2.

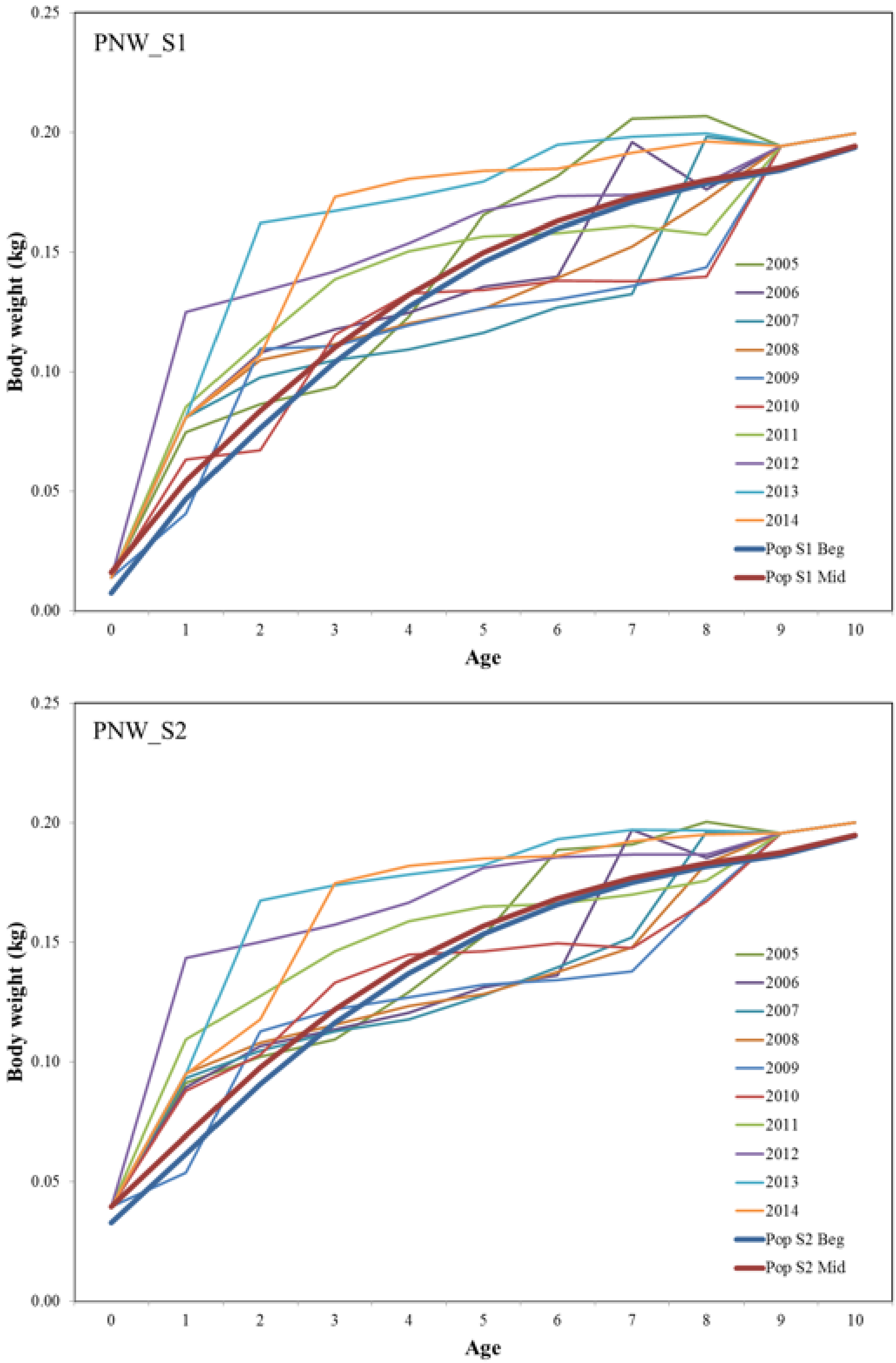


Figure 6. Empirical weight-at-age time series for the PNW fleet in seasons 1 and 2.

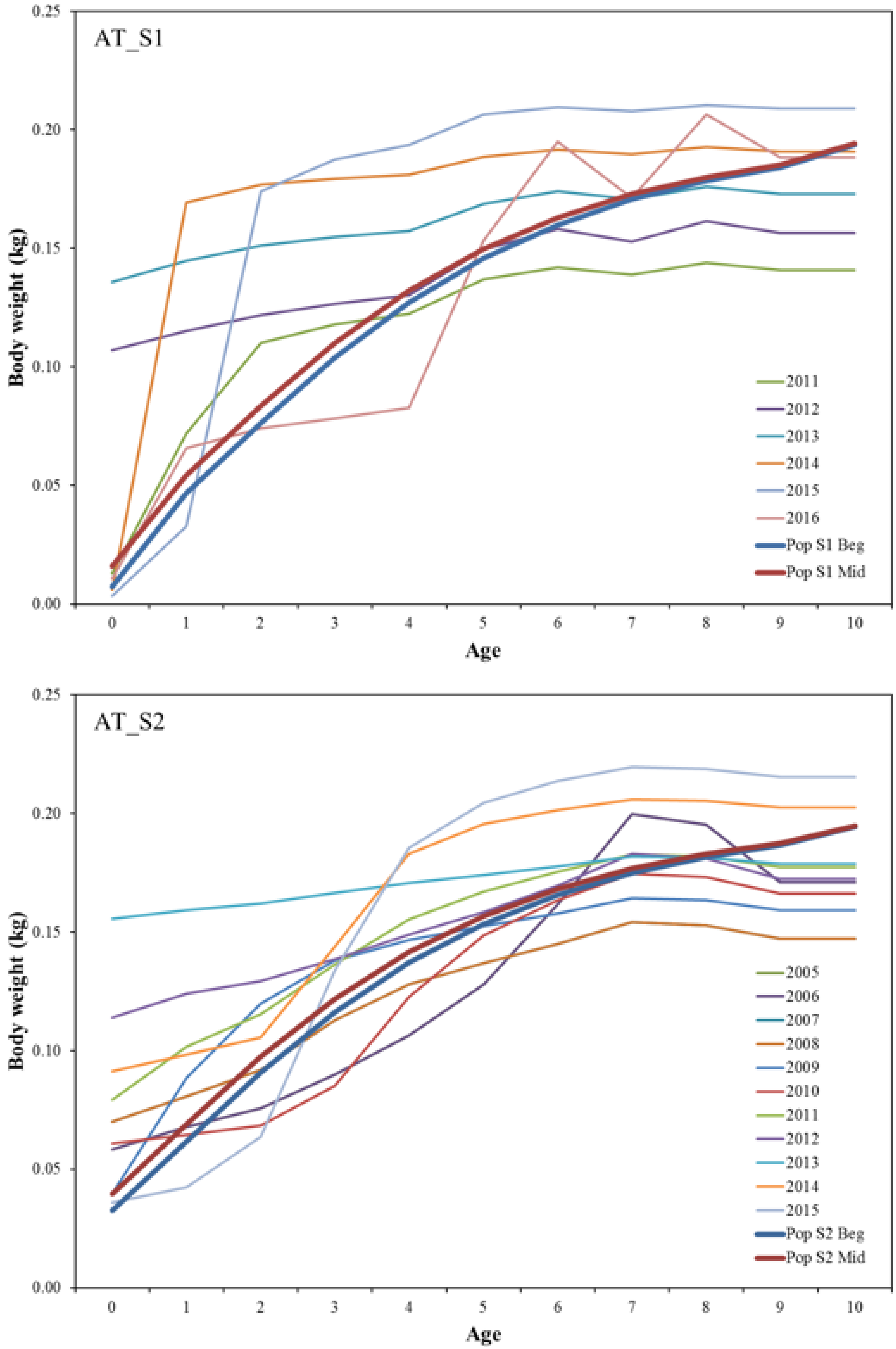


Figure 7. Empirical weight-at-age time series for the AT survey in seasons 1 and 2.

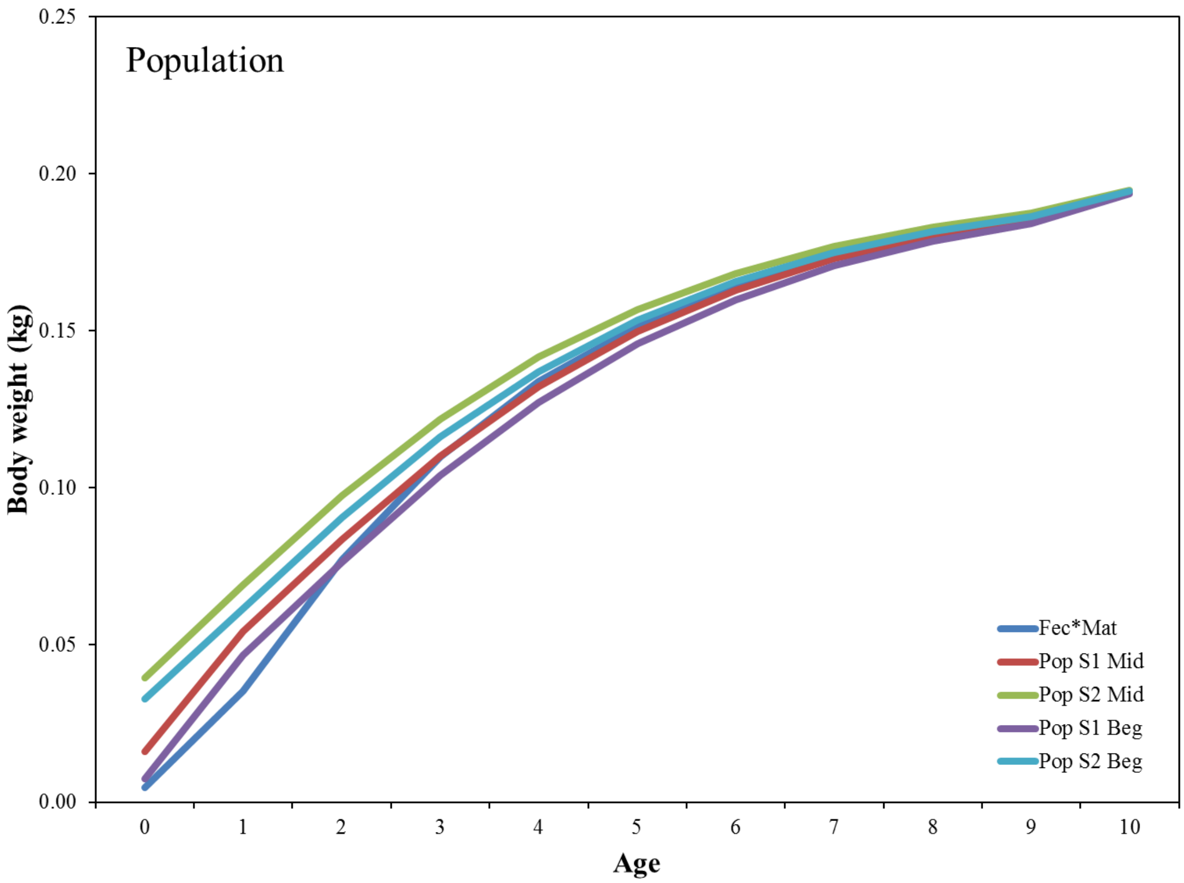


Figure 8. Population body weights-at-age and SSB-at-age applied in model ALT. Population body weights-at-age are provided at the beginning and middle of seasons 1 and 2, and fecundity*maturity-at-age is used to calculate SSB at the beginning of season 2.

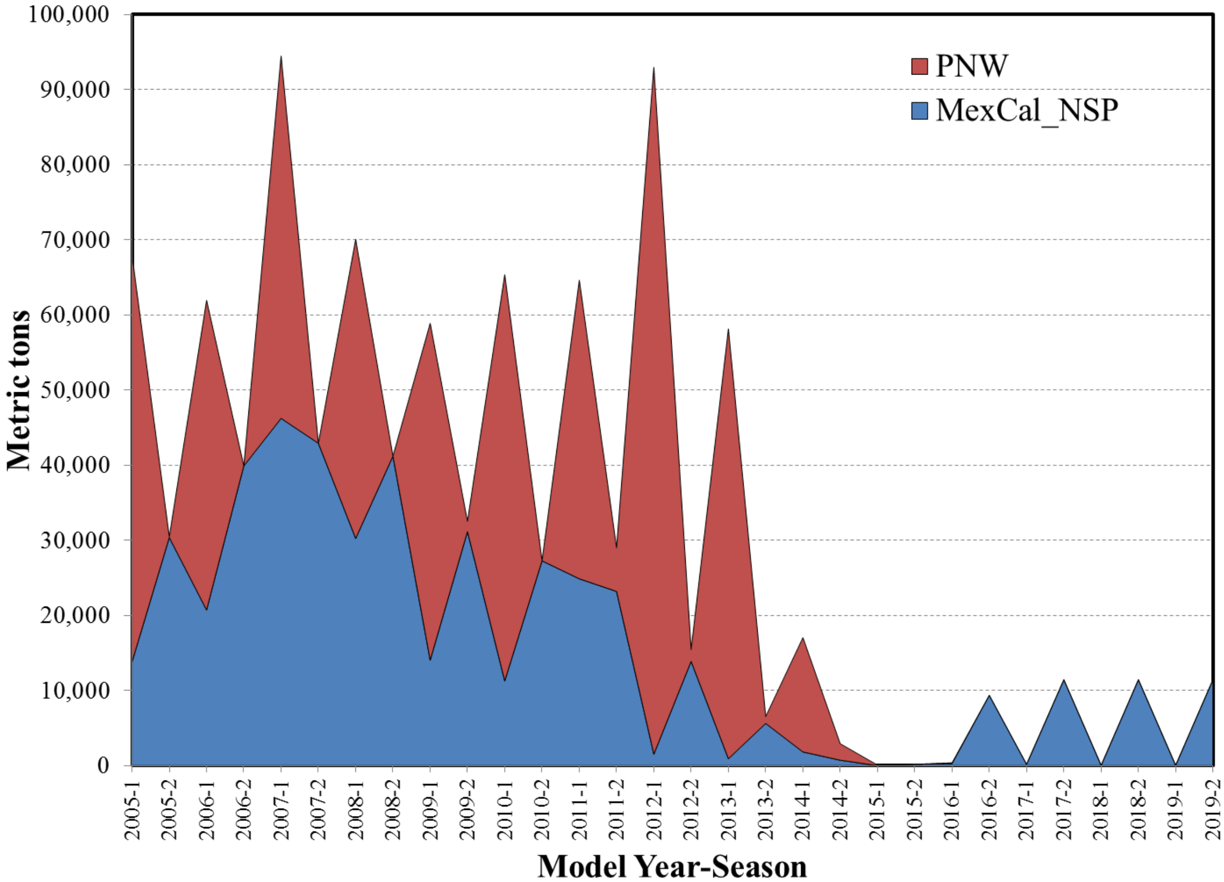


Figure 9. Pacific sardine NSP landings (mt) by fleet, model year and semester as used in model ALT-2019.

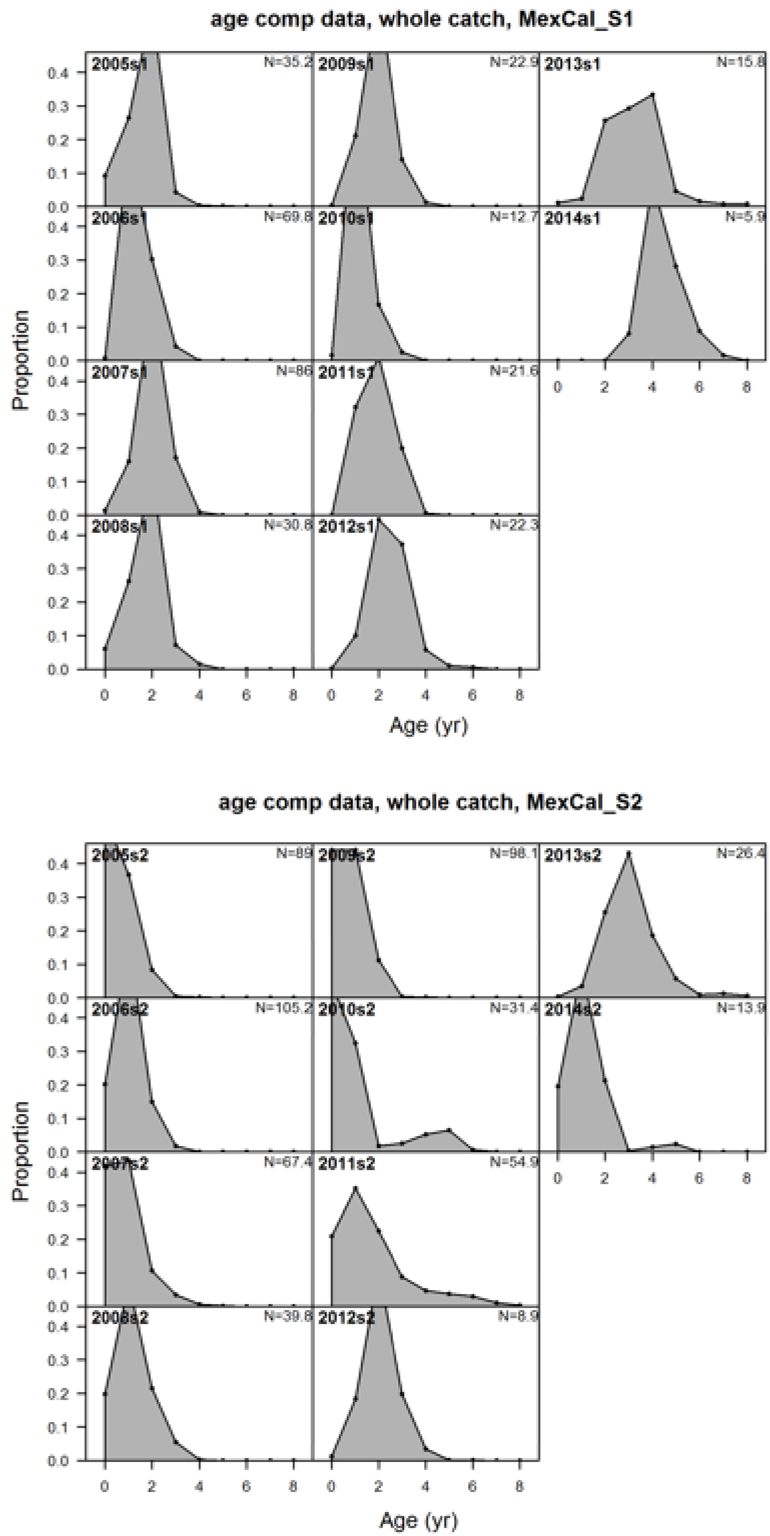


Figure 10. Age composition time series for the MEXCAL fleet in seasons 1 (upper) and 2 (lower). N represents input sample sizes.

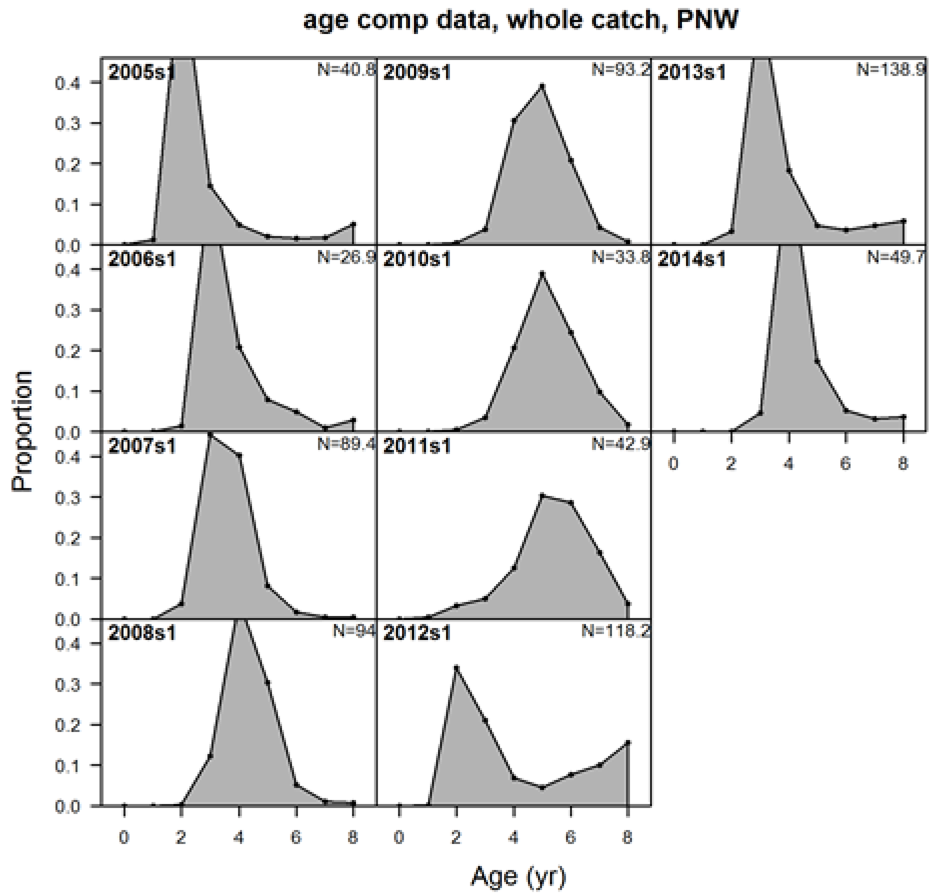


Figure 11. Age composition time series for the PNW fleet in season 1. N represents input sample sizes.

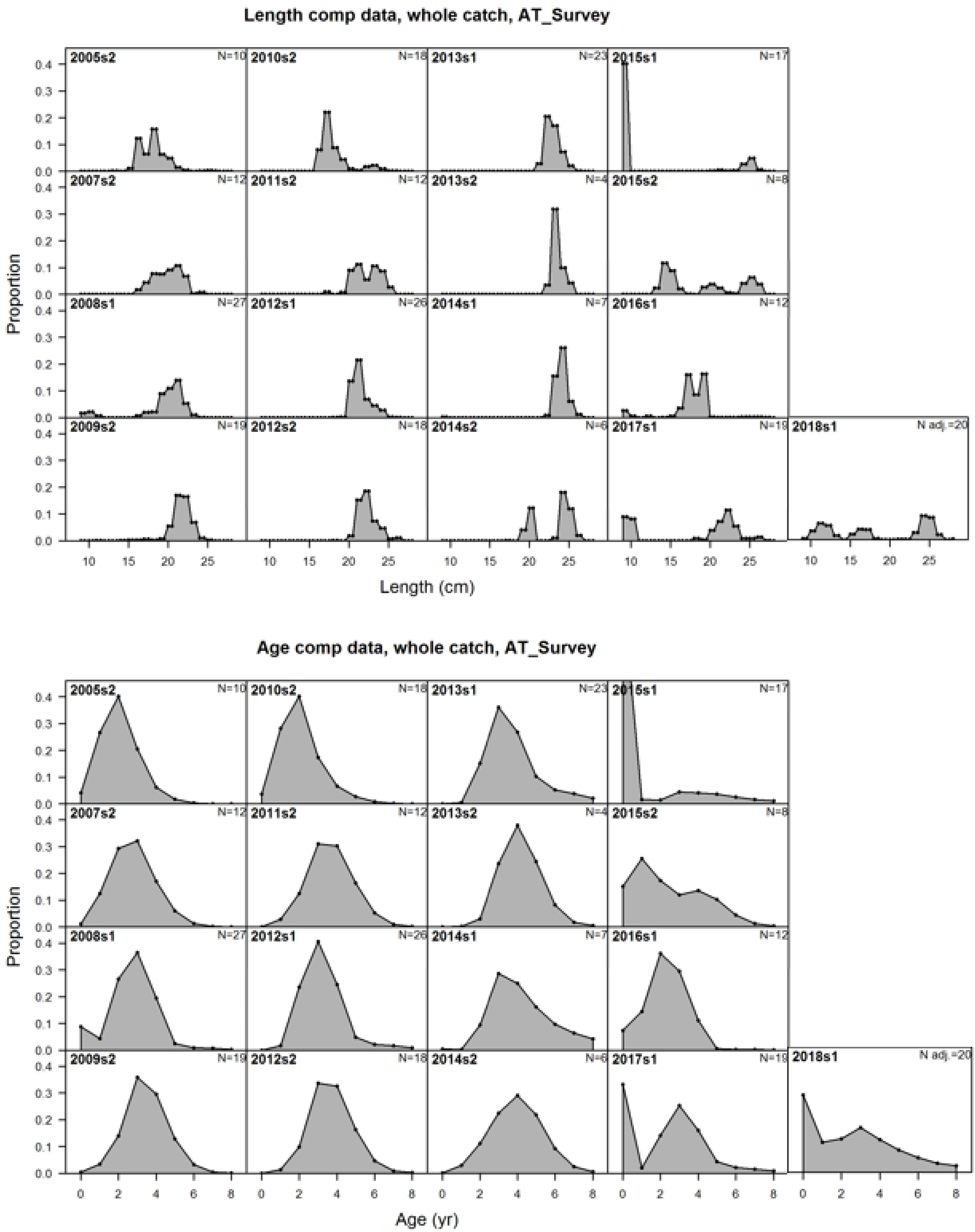


Figure 12a. Length (upper panel) and age-composition (lower panel) time series for the AT survey. N represents input sample sizes. Age compositions were derived from length compositions using season-specific age-length keys.

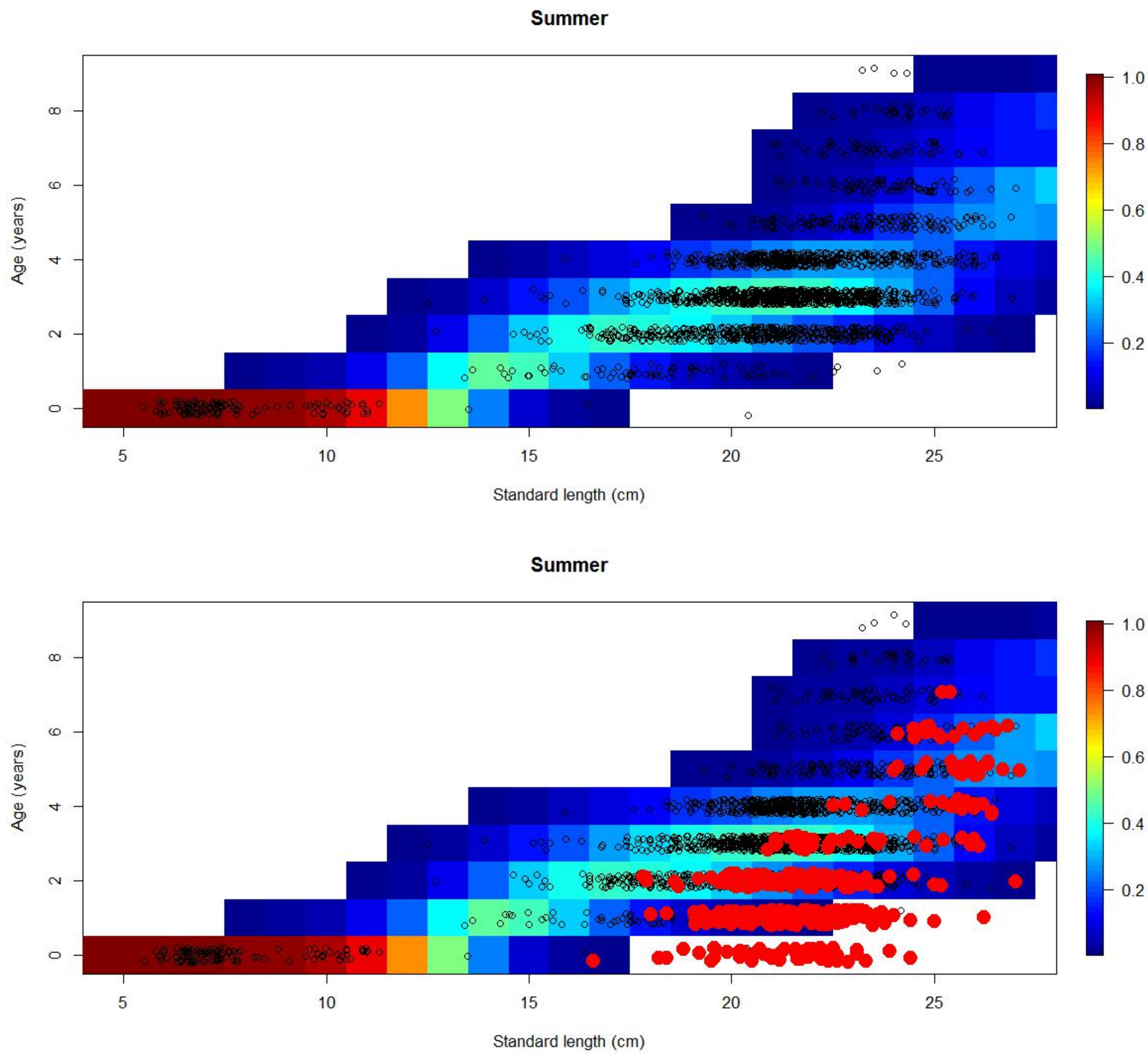


Figure 12b. Aggregate age-length key derived from summer AT survey samples collected from 2006-2016 (upper and lower panels). Summer 2017 age data are overlaid in the lower panel (red dots). Survey age compositions were derived from length compositions using season-specific age-length keys, excluding the anomalous 2017 data. No new age data were available from the summer 2018 survey.

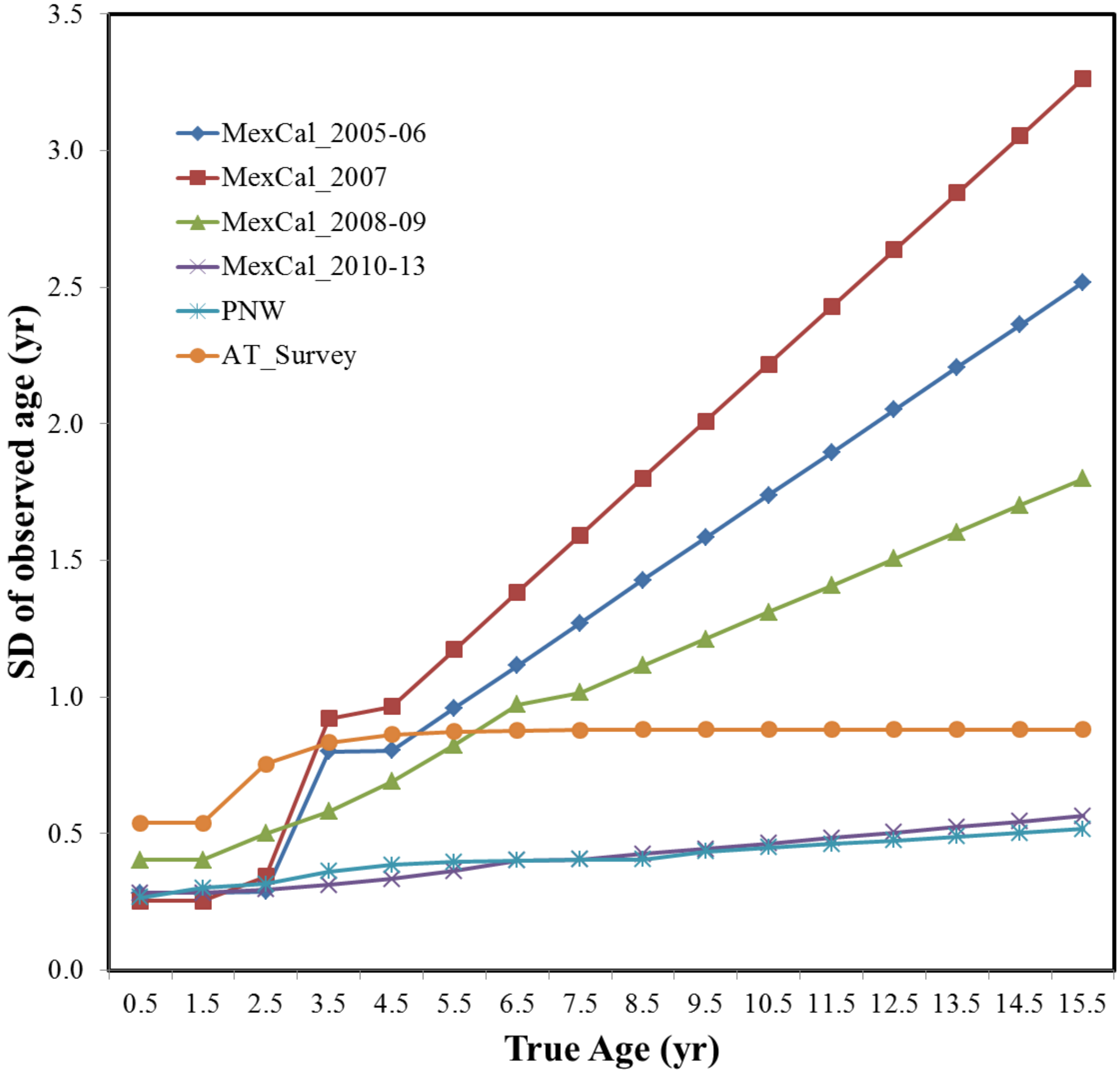


Figure 13. Laboratory- and year-specific ageing errors applied in model ALT-2019.

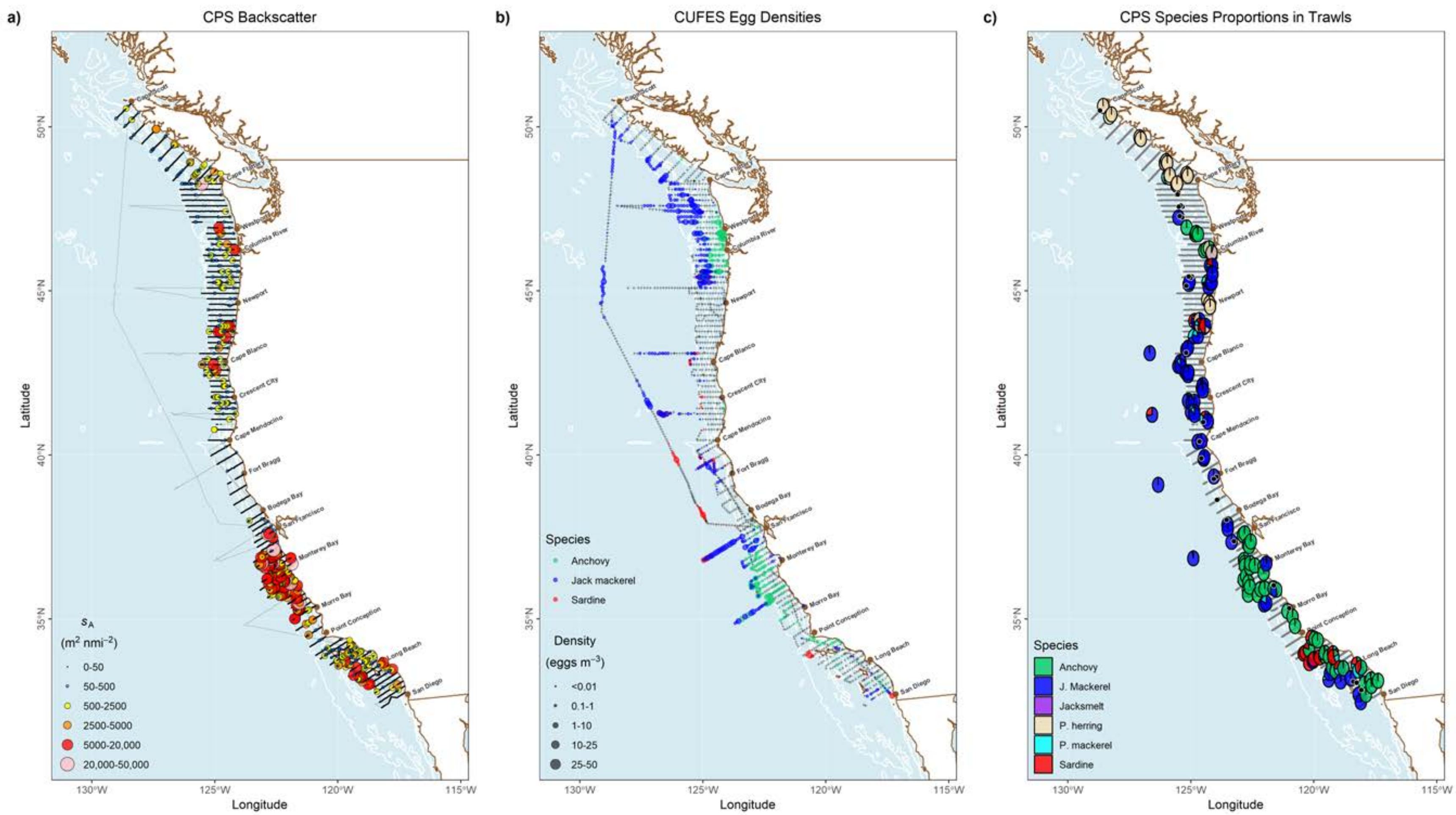


Figure 14. Results from the AT survey for summer 2018 (Demer et al. *in preparation*). A map of the a) distribution of 38-kHz integrated backscattering coefficients (s_A, m^2 nmi^{-2}; averaged over 2000-m distance intervals and from 5 to 70-m deep) ascribed to CPS; b) CUFES egg density (eggs m^{-3}) for anchovy, sardine, and jack mackerel; and c) proportions of CPS species in trawls (black points indicate trawls with no CPS).

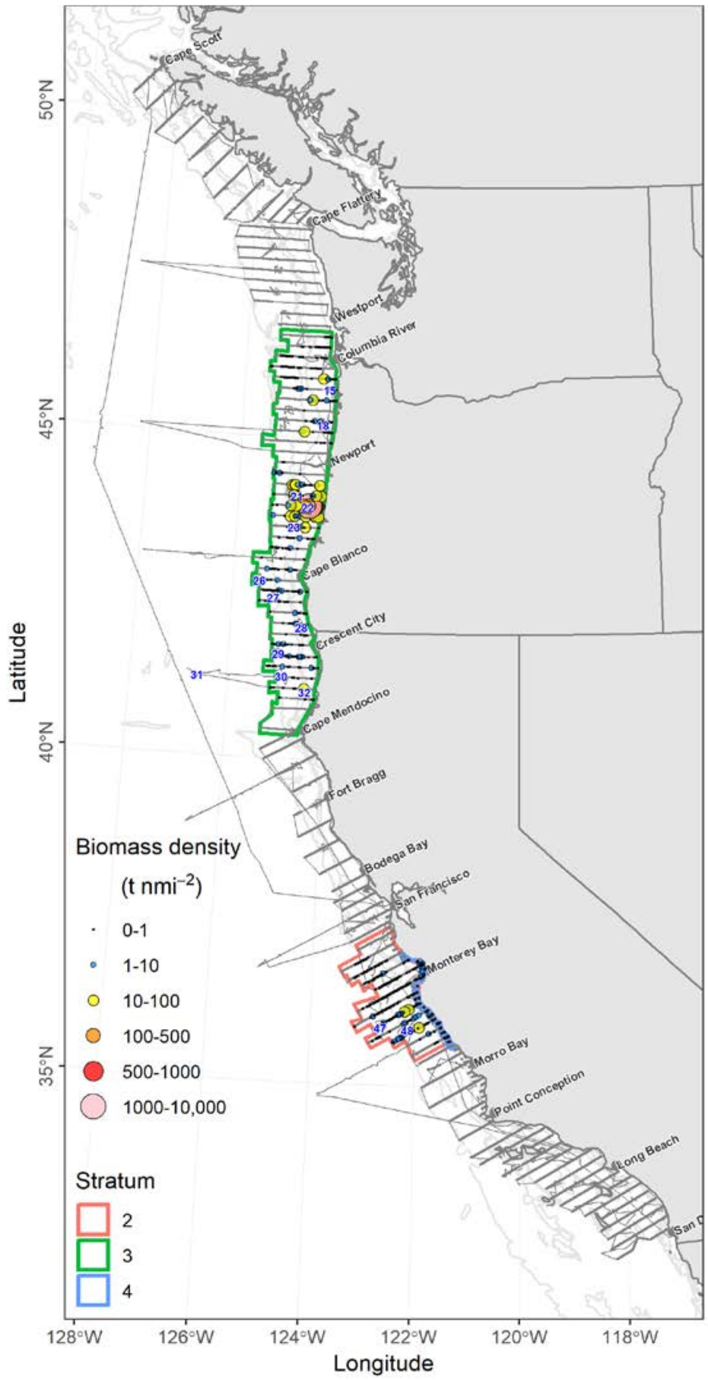


Figure 15. Biomass densities of the northern stock of Pacific Sardine (*Sardinops sagax*), per stratum (see Table 6b), throughout the summer 2018 AT survey region, estimated using the acoustic-trawl method with TS_{sardine} = TS_{herring} (Stierhoff, Zwolinski and Demer *pers. comm.*) The blue numbers represent the locations of trawl clusters with at least one sardine. The gray line represents the vessel track. Stratum numbers for the northern stock of Pacific Sardine begin at 2 (stratum 1 was south of Pt. Conception and assigned to the southern stock of Pacific Sardine).

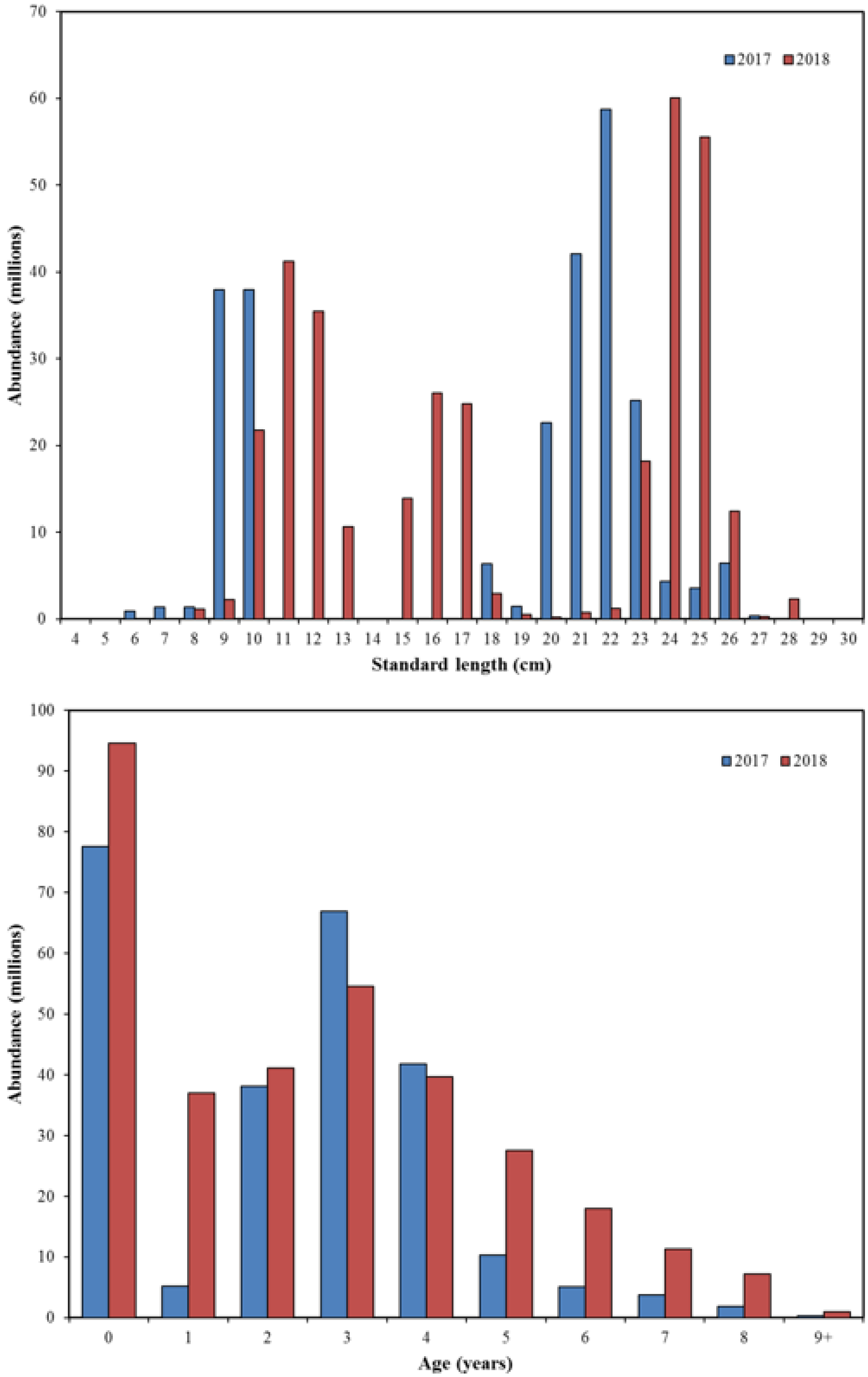


Figure 16. Estimated NSP sardine abundance by length (upper) and age (lower) for the summer 2017 and 2018 AT surveys.

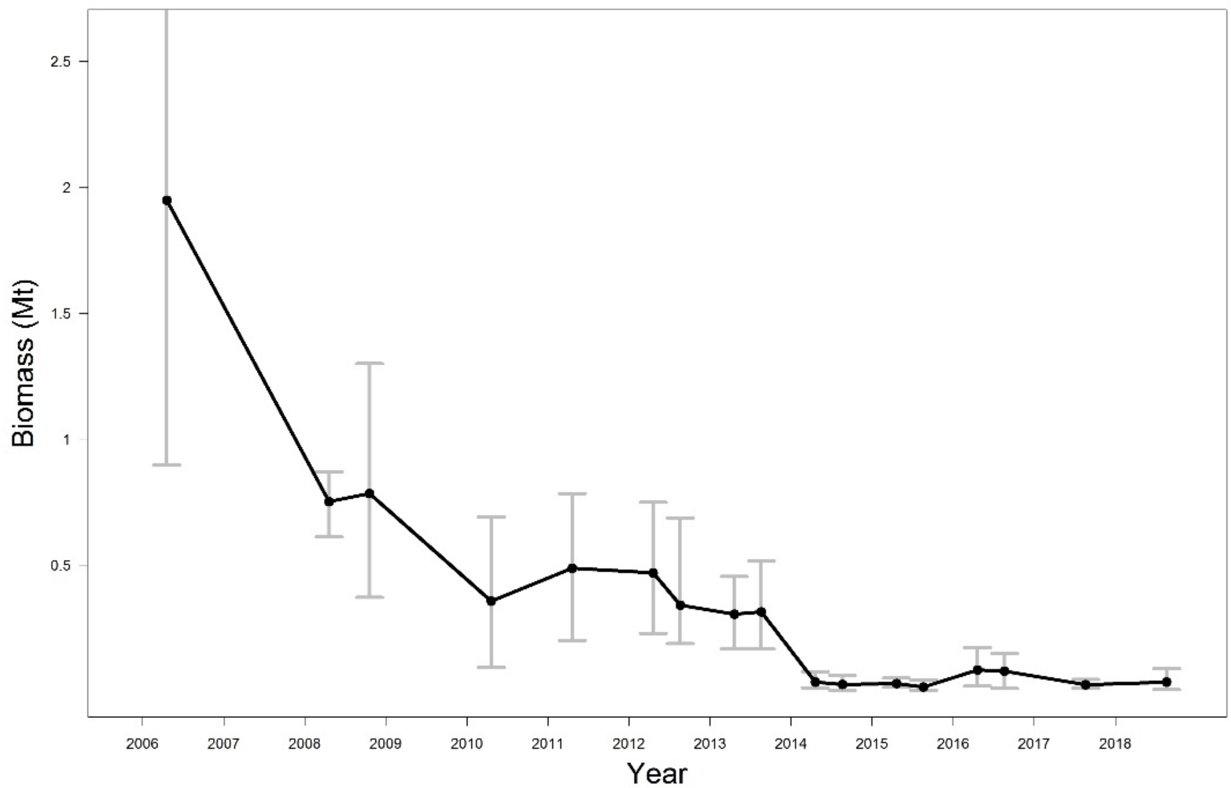


Figure 17. Time-series of Pacific sardine biomass with respective 95% confidence intervals as estimated by acoustic-trawl (AT) surveys, 2006-2018.

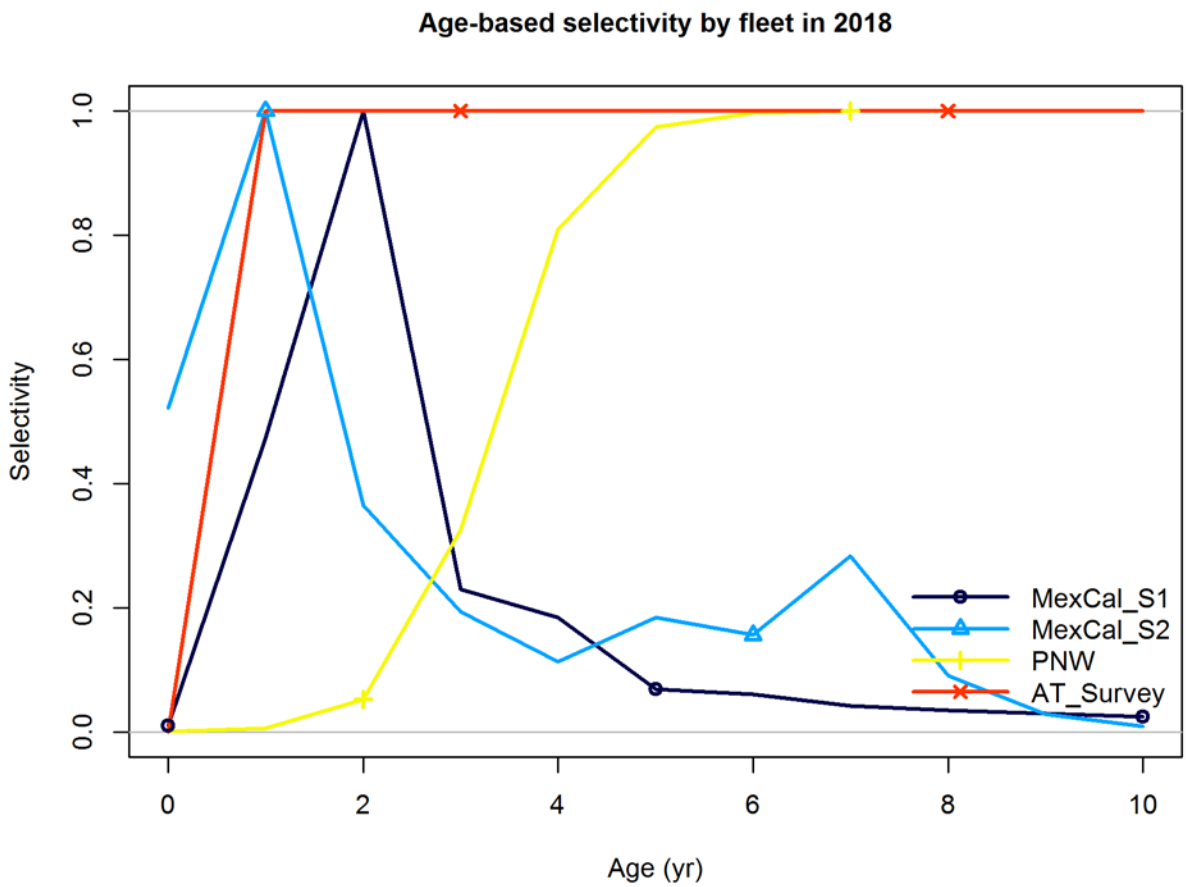
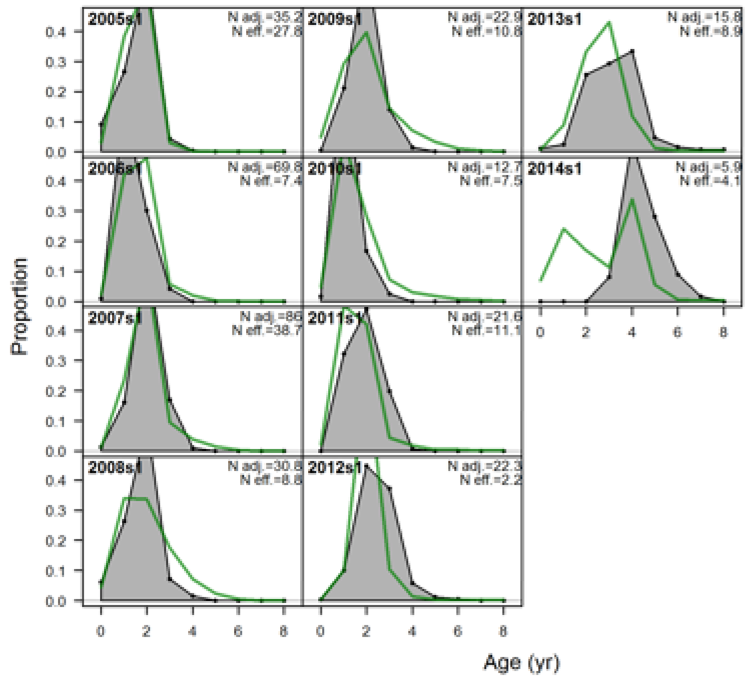


Figure 18. Age-selectivity patterns for model ALT-2019.



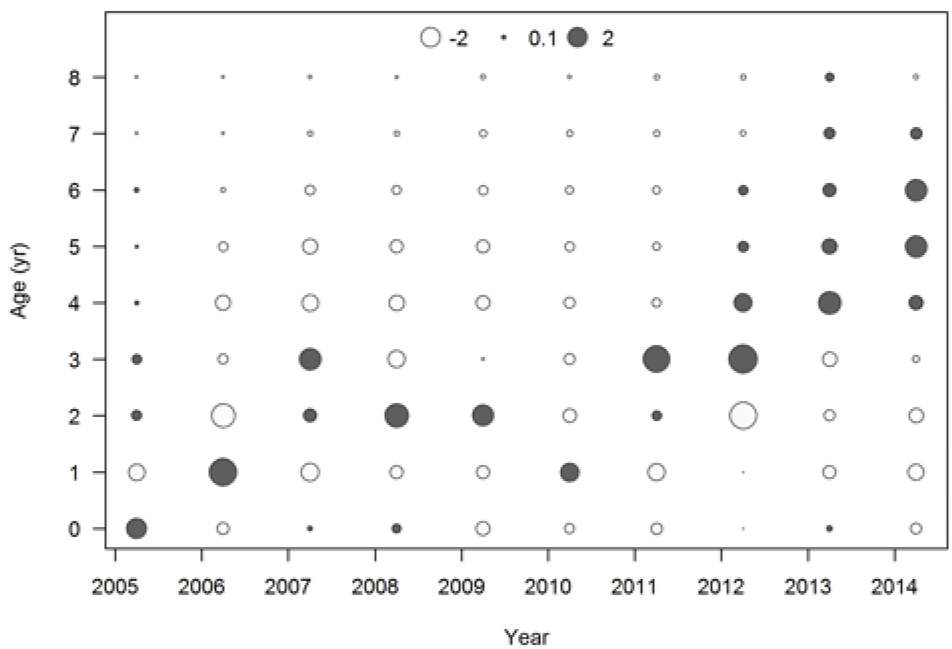


Figure 19. Fit to age-composition time series and residual plot for the MEXCAL_S1 fleet in model ALT-2019. N represents input sample sizes and effN is the effective sample size given overall statistical fit in the model.

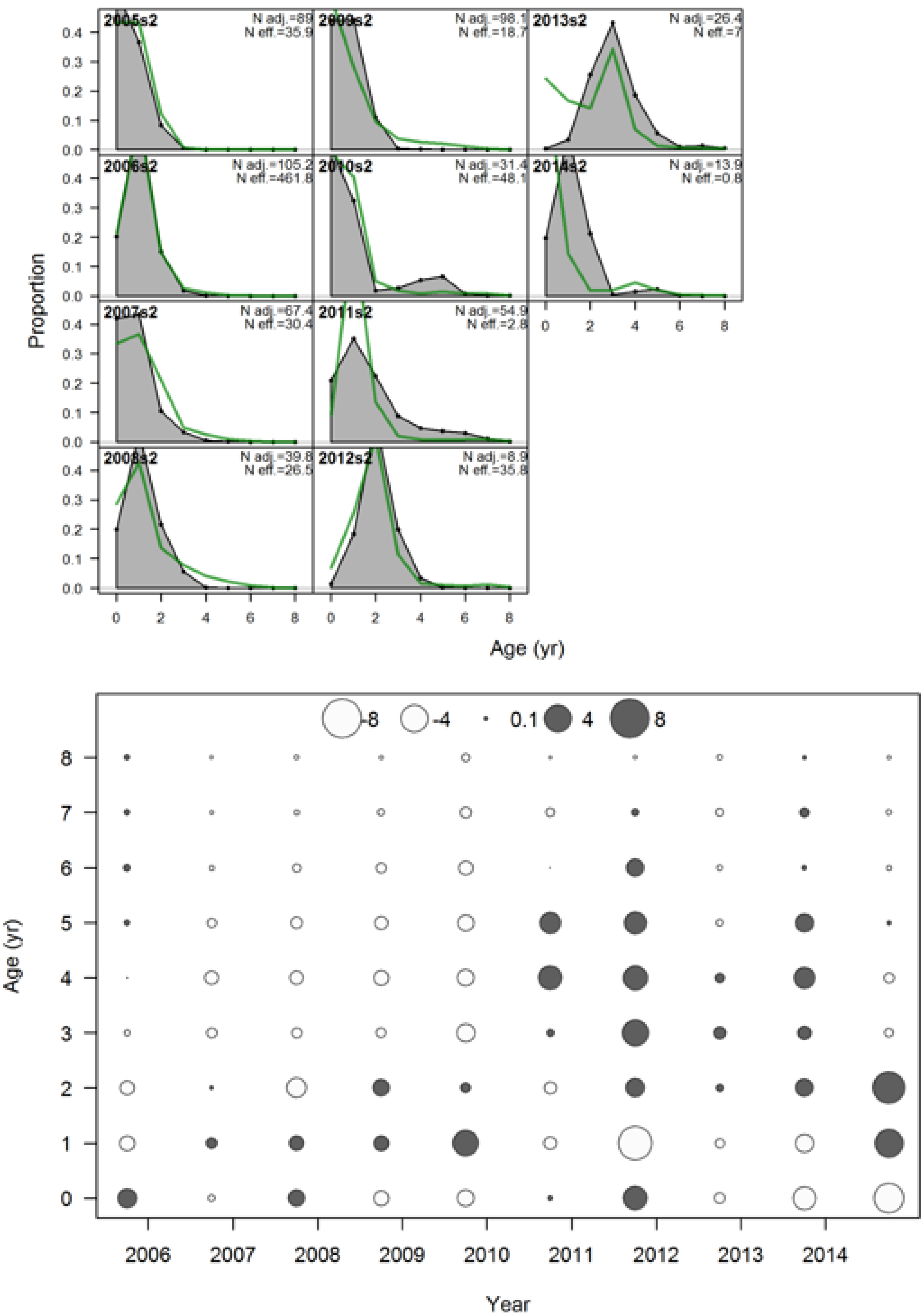


Figure 20. Fit to age-composition time series and residual plot for the MEXCAL_S2 fleet in model ALT-2019. N represents input sample sizes and effN is the effective sample size given overall statistical fit in the model.

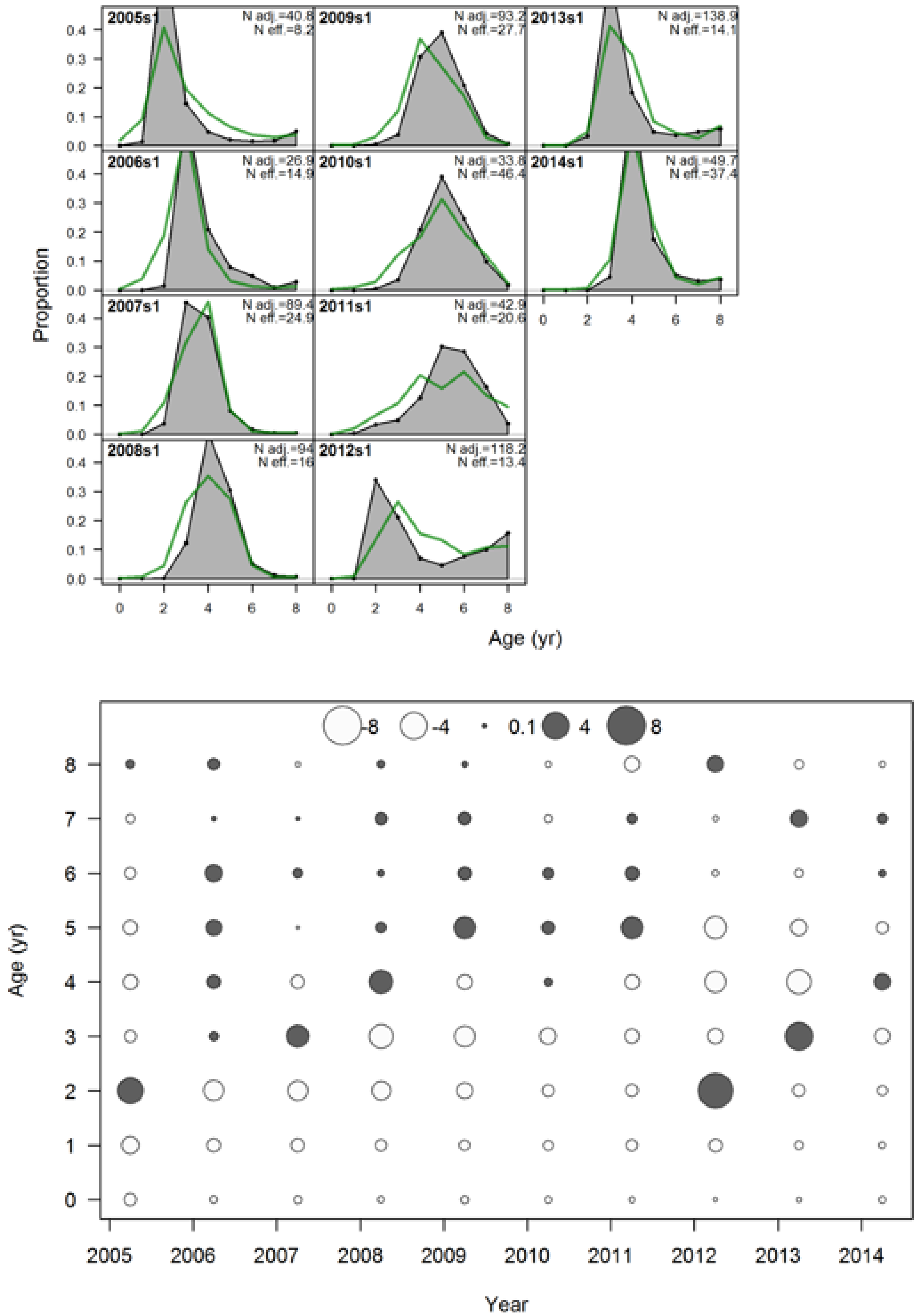


Figure 21. Fit to age-composition time series and residual plot for the PNW fleet in model ALT-2019. N represents input sample sizes and effN is the effective sample size given overall statistical fit in the model.

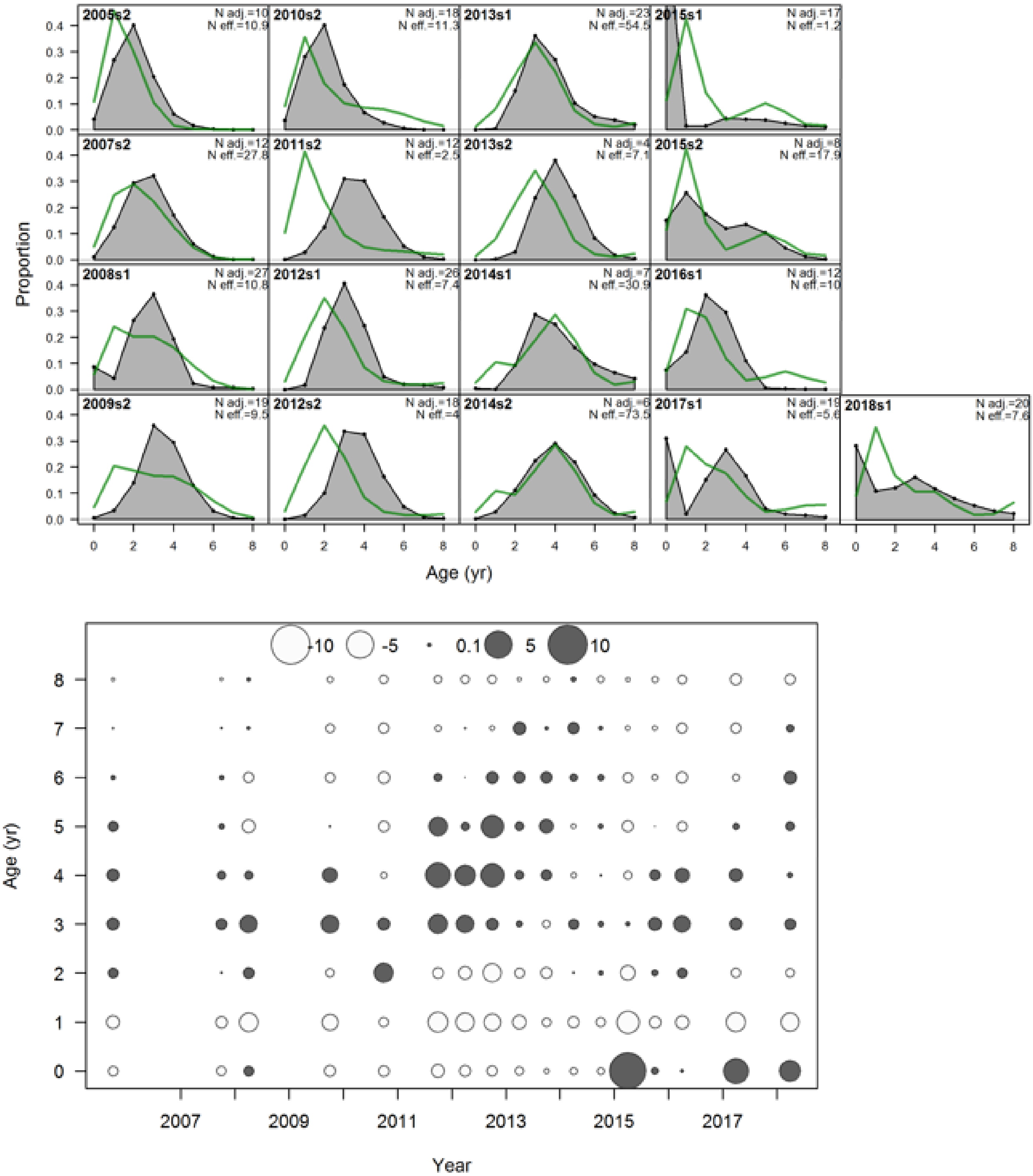
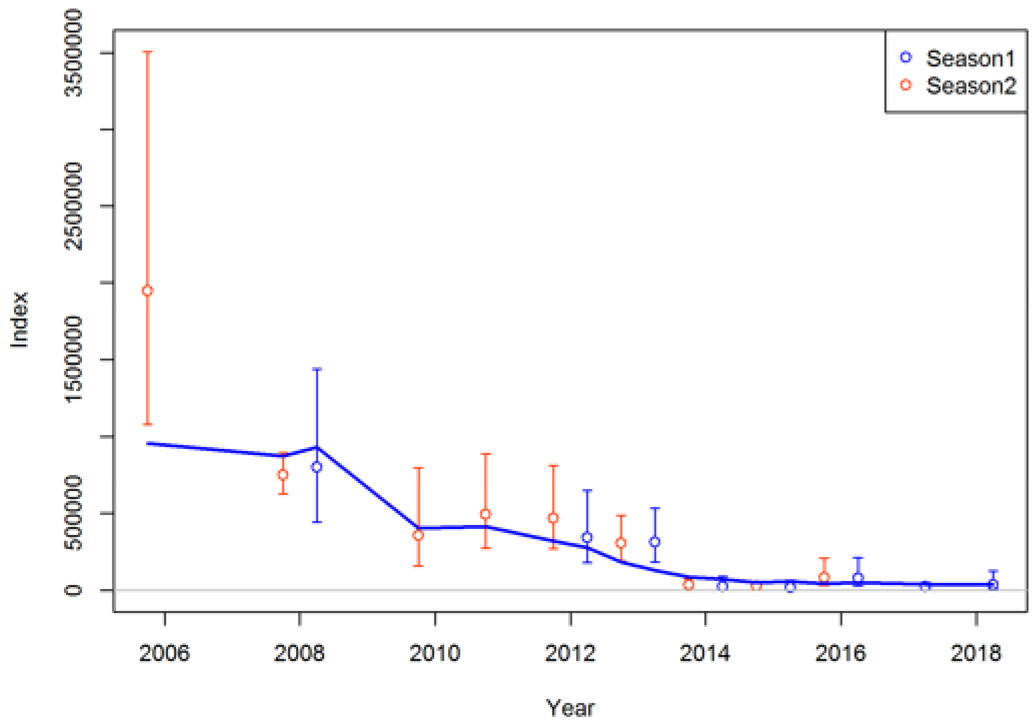


Figure 22. Fit to age-composition time series and residual plot for the AT survey for model ALT-2019. N represents input sample sizes and effN is the effective sample size given overall statistical fit in the model.



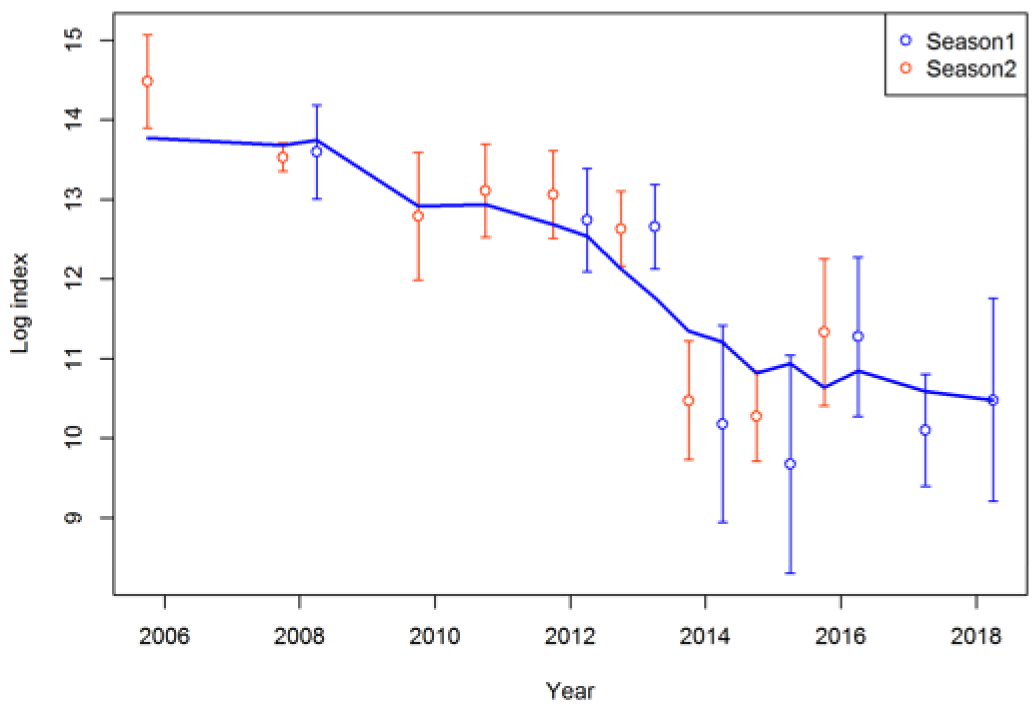


Figure 23. Fit to the AT survey abundance index in arithmetic (upper panel) and log (lower panel) scales for model ALT-2019. *Q*=1.17 (estimated).

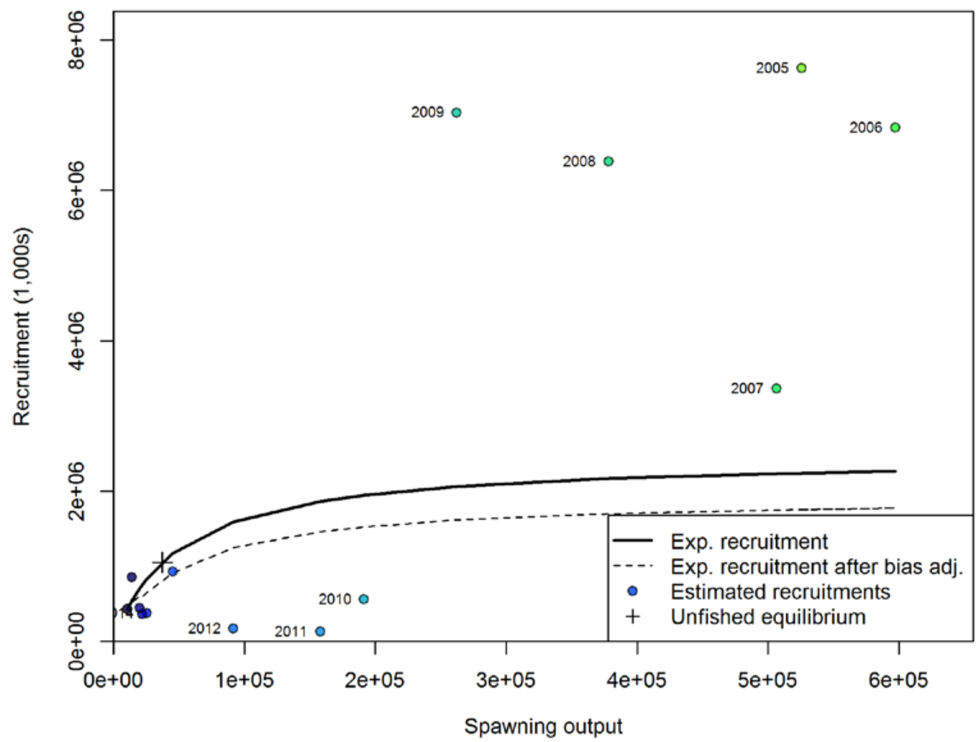


Figure 24. Estimated stock-recruitment (Beverton-Holt) relationship for model ALT-2019. Steepness is estimated (*h*=0.304). Year labels represent year of SSB producing the subsequent year class.

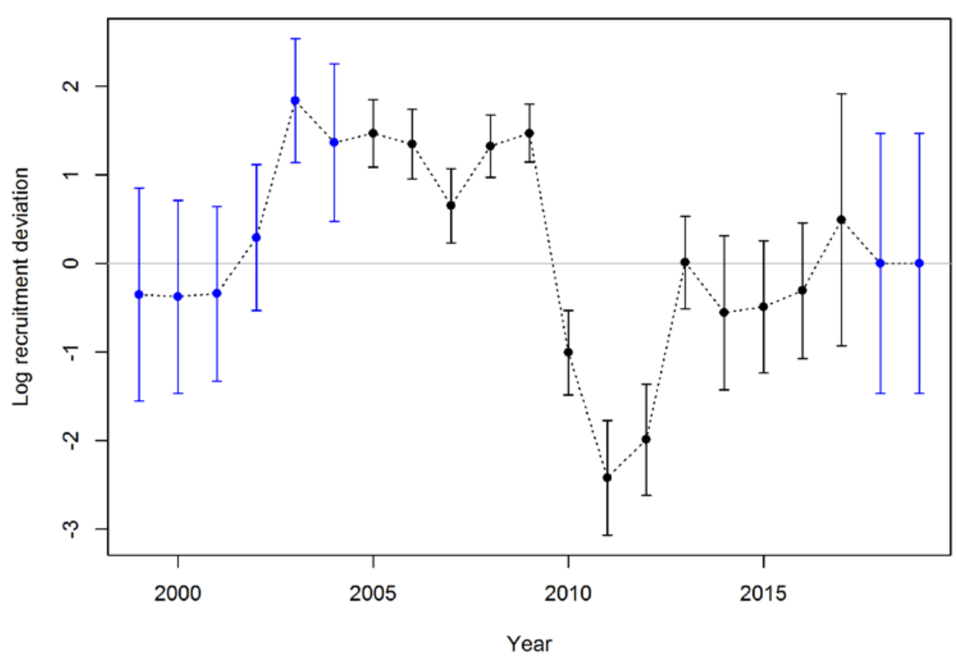


Figure 25. Recruitment deviations and standard errors (σ_R = 0.75) for model ALT-2019. Year labels represent year of SSB producing the subsequent year class.

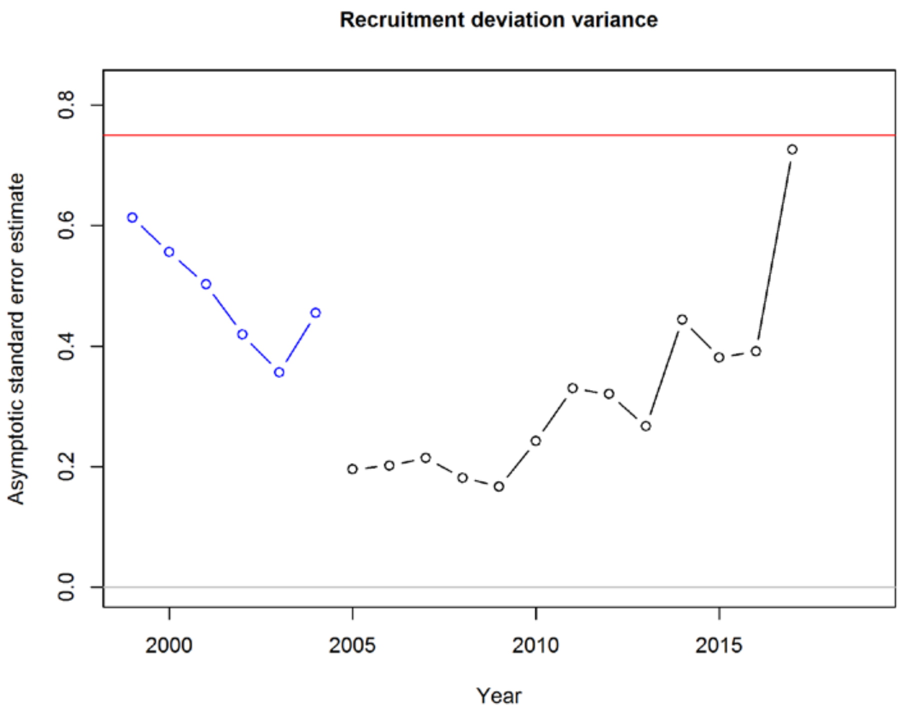


Figure 26. Asymptotic standard errors for estimated recruitment deviations for model ALT-2019.

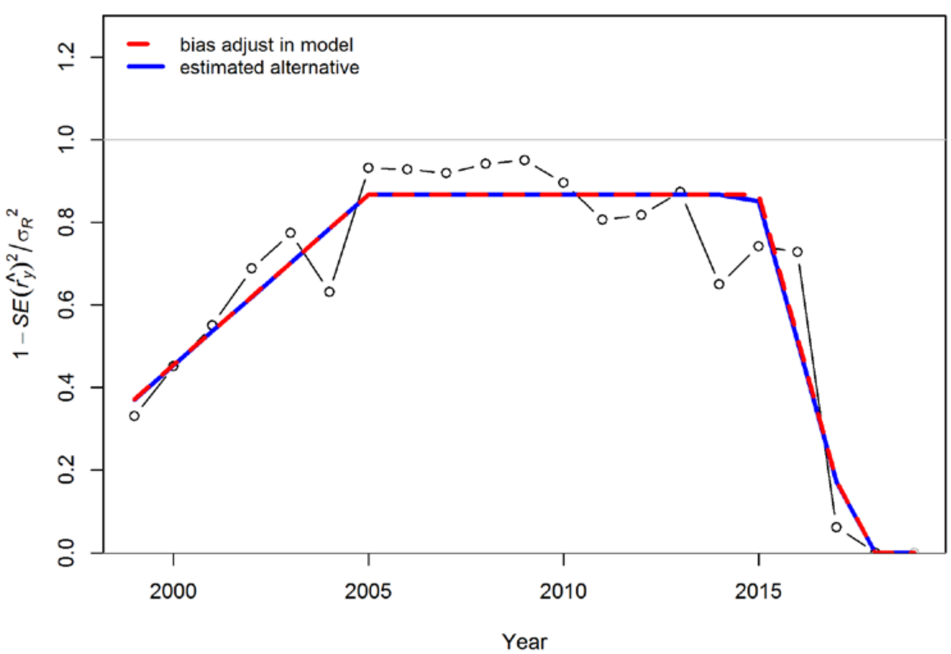


Figure 27. Recruitment bias adjustment plot for early, main, and forecast periods in model ALT-2019.

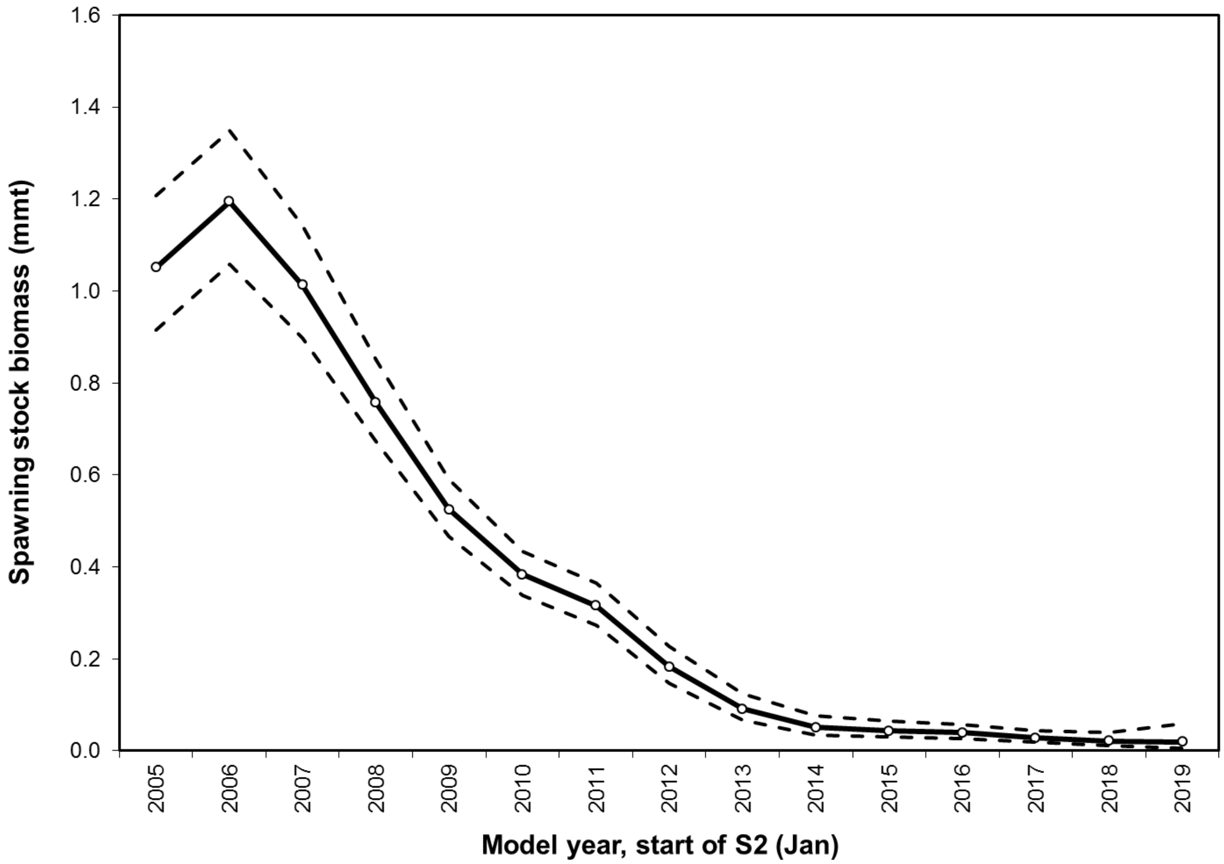


Figure 28. Spawning stock biomass time series (±95% CI) for model ALT-2019.

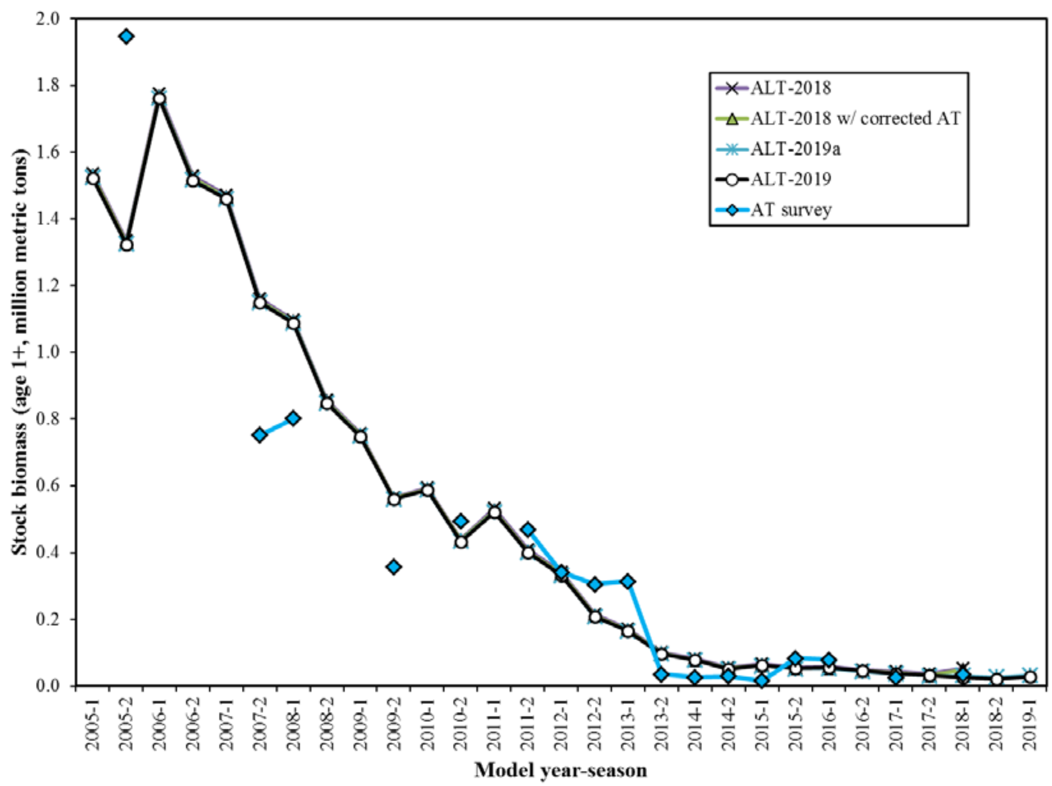


Figure 29a. Estimated stock biomass (age 1+ fish, mt) time series for the AT survey and model ALT-2019.

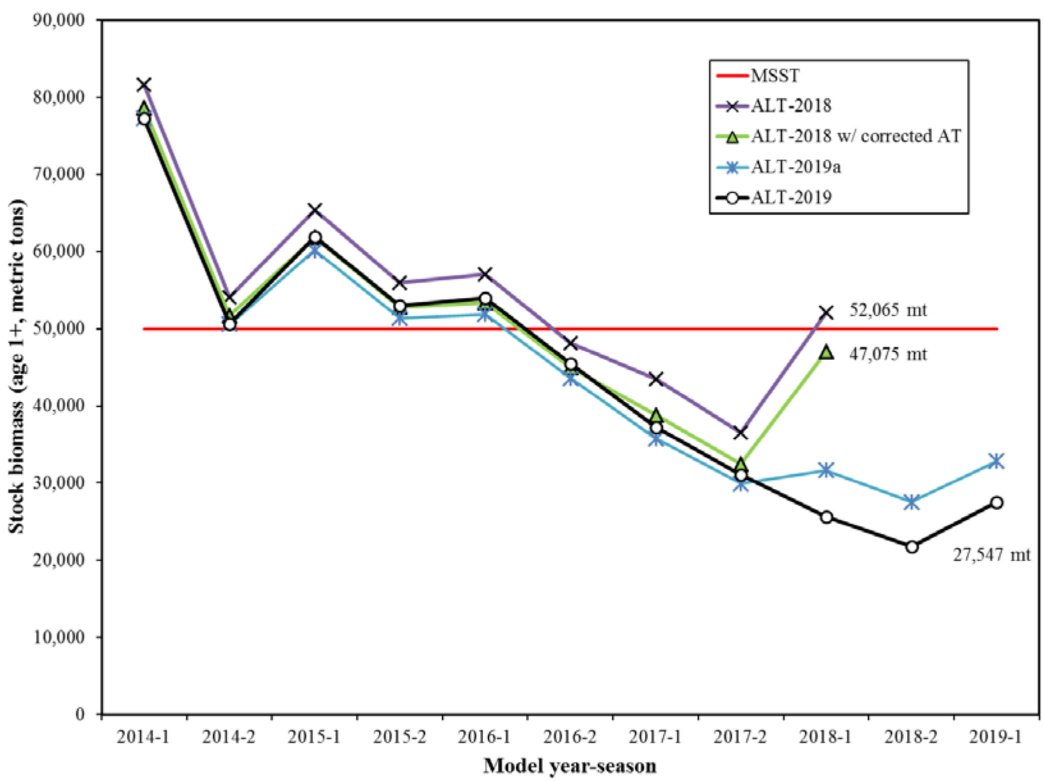


Figure 29b. Estimated stock biomass (age 1+ fish, mt) time series from 2014-19

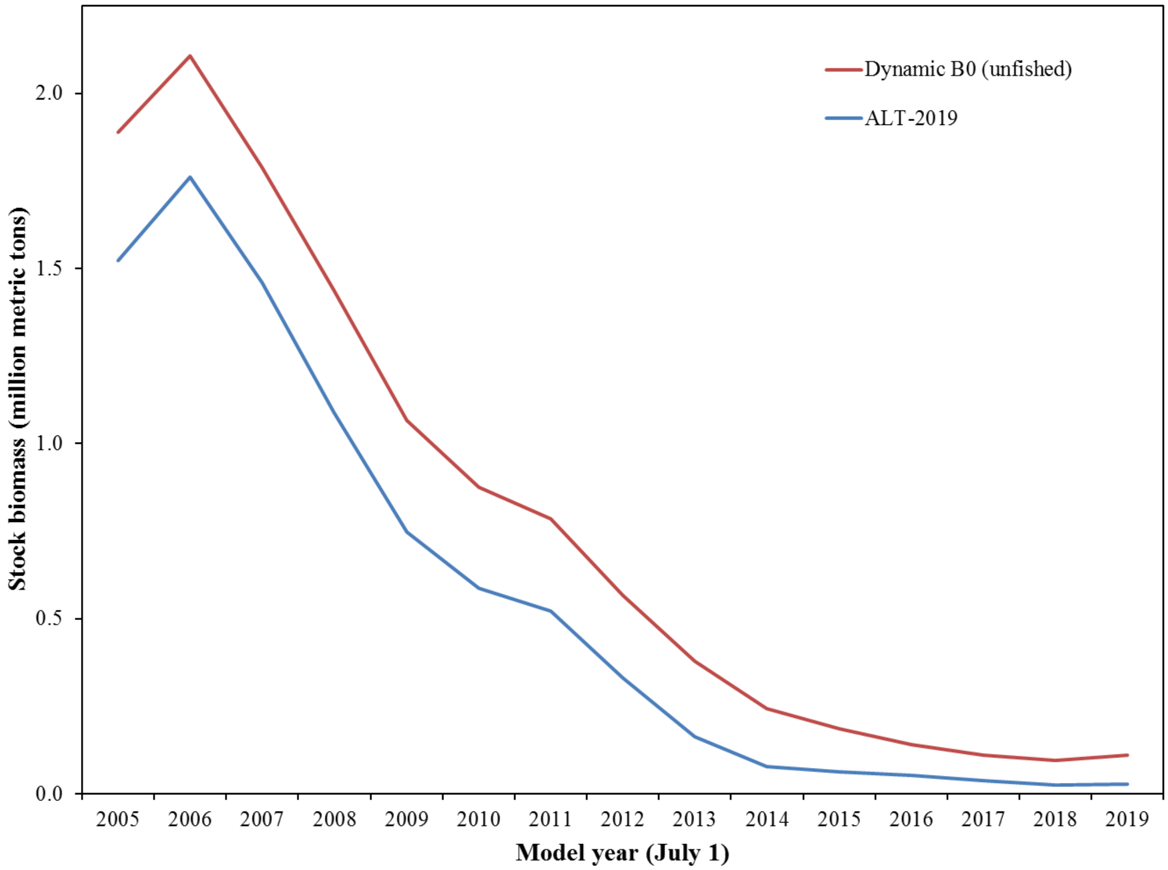


Figure 29c. Estimated stock biomass (age 1+ fish, mt) time series and dynamic B0 (unfished population) from model ALT-2019.

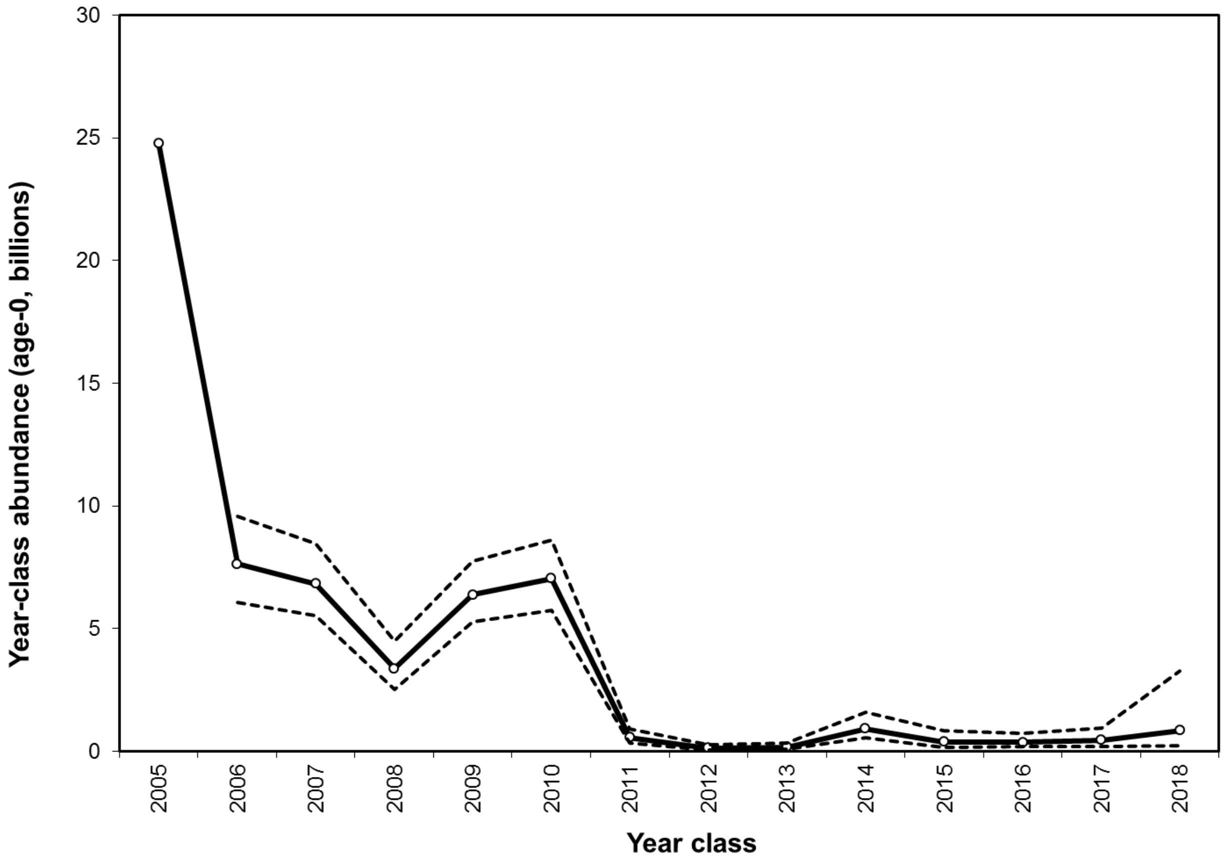


Figure 30. Recruit (age-0 fish, billions) abundance time series (±95% CI) for model ALT-2019.

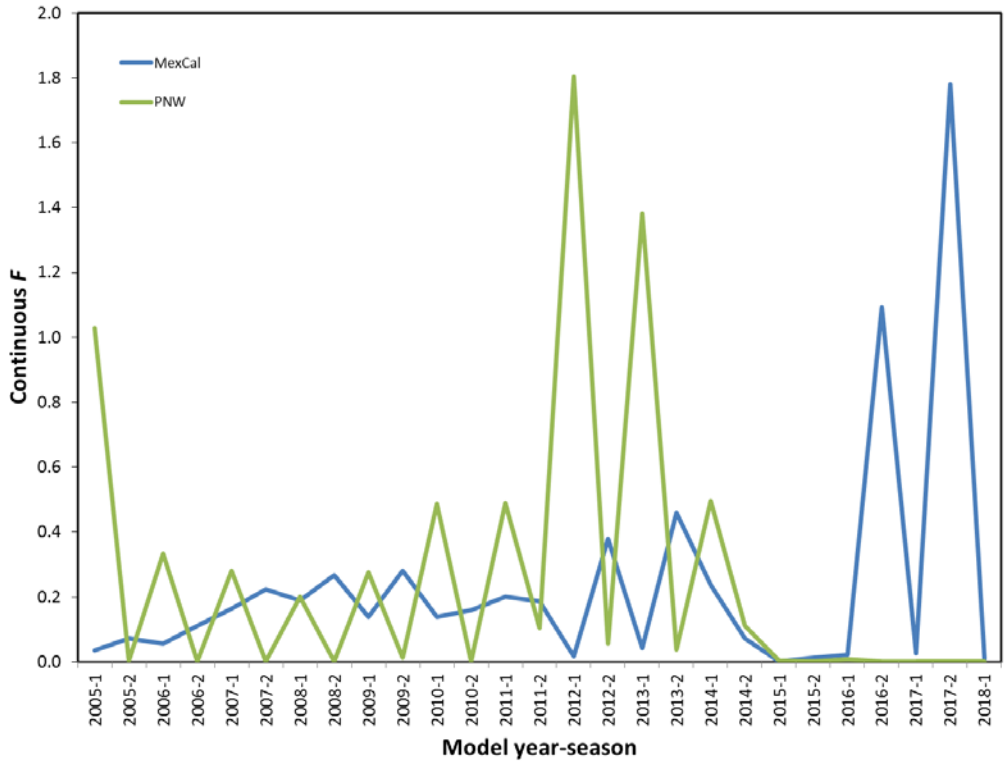


Figure 31. Instantaneous fishing mortality (apical *F*) time series for model ALT-2019. Note that high *F* values for the PNW fleet reflect rates for fishes ages 6 and older.

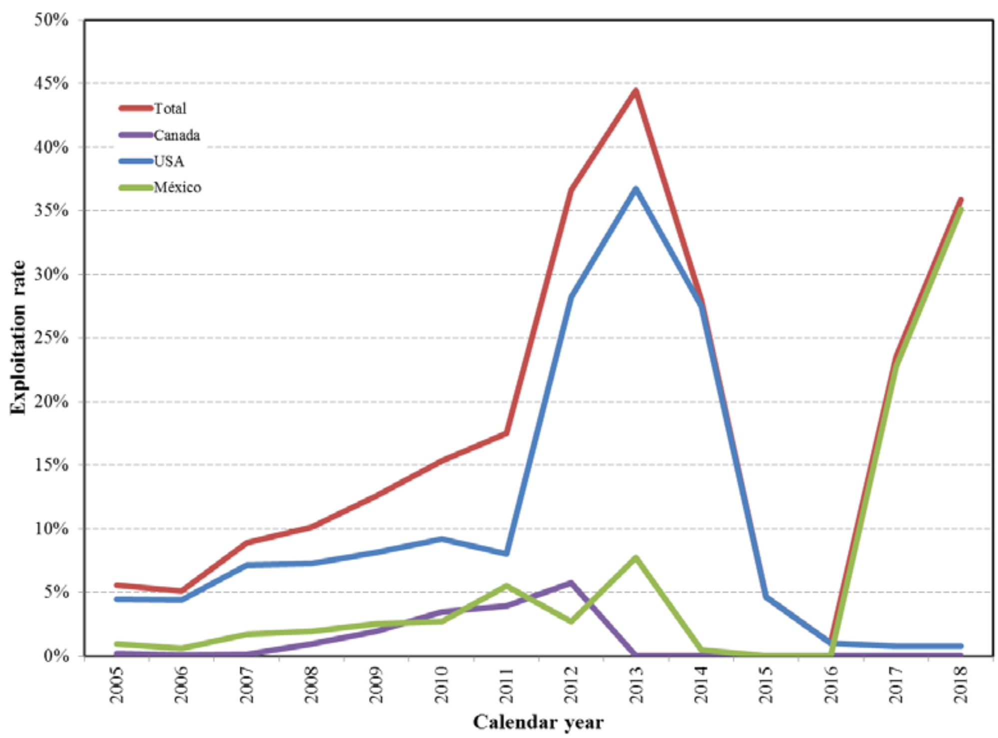


Figure 32. Annual exploitation rates (CY landings / July total biomass) for model ALT-2019.

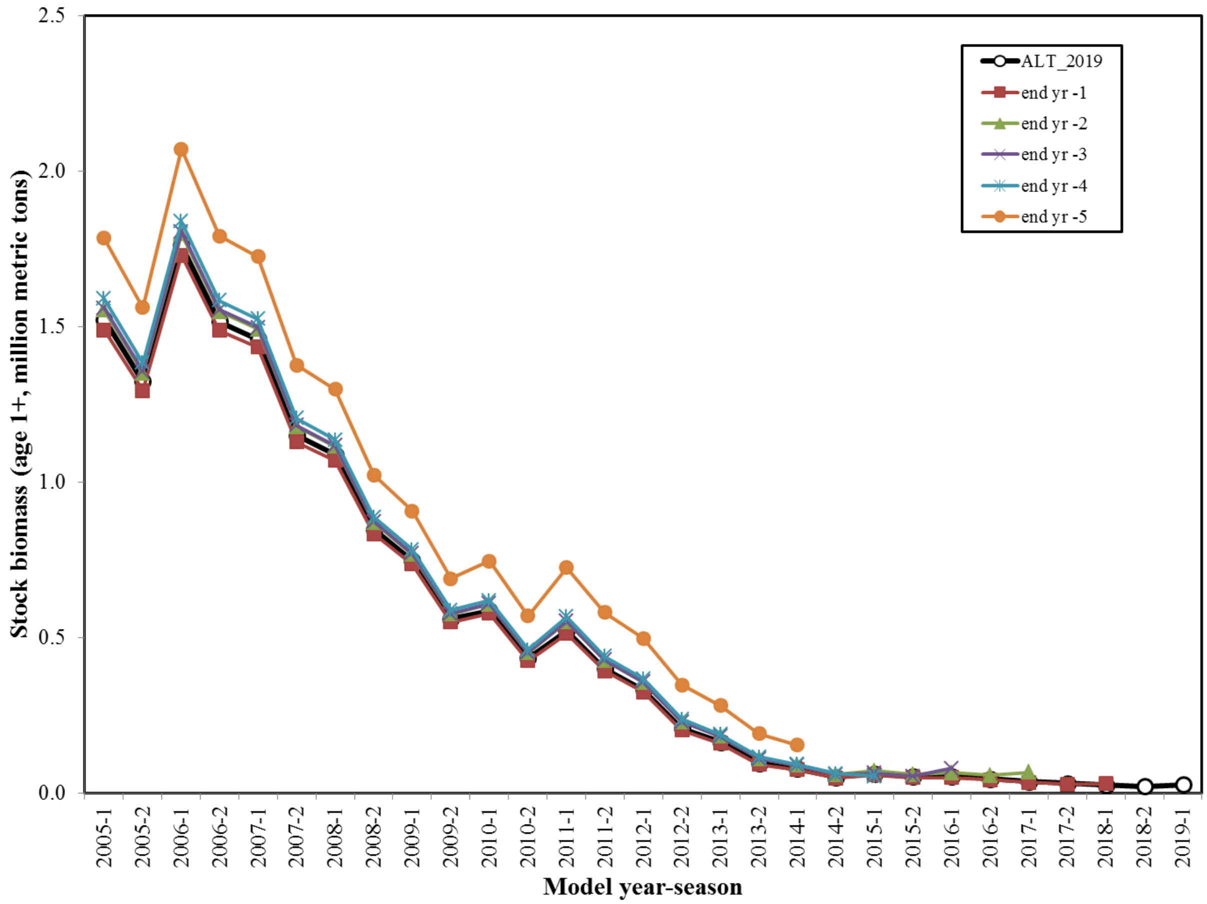


Figure 33. Retrospective analyses of stock biomass (age 1+) for model ALT-2019.

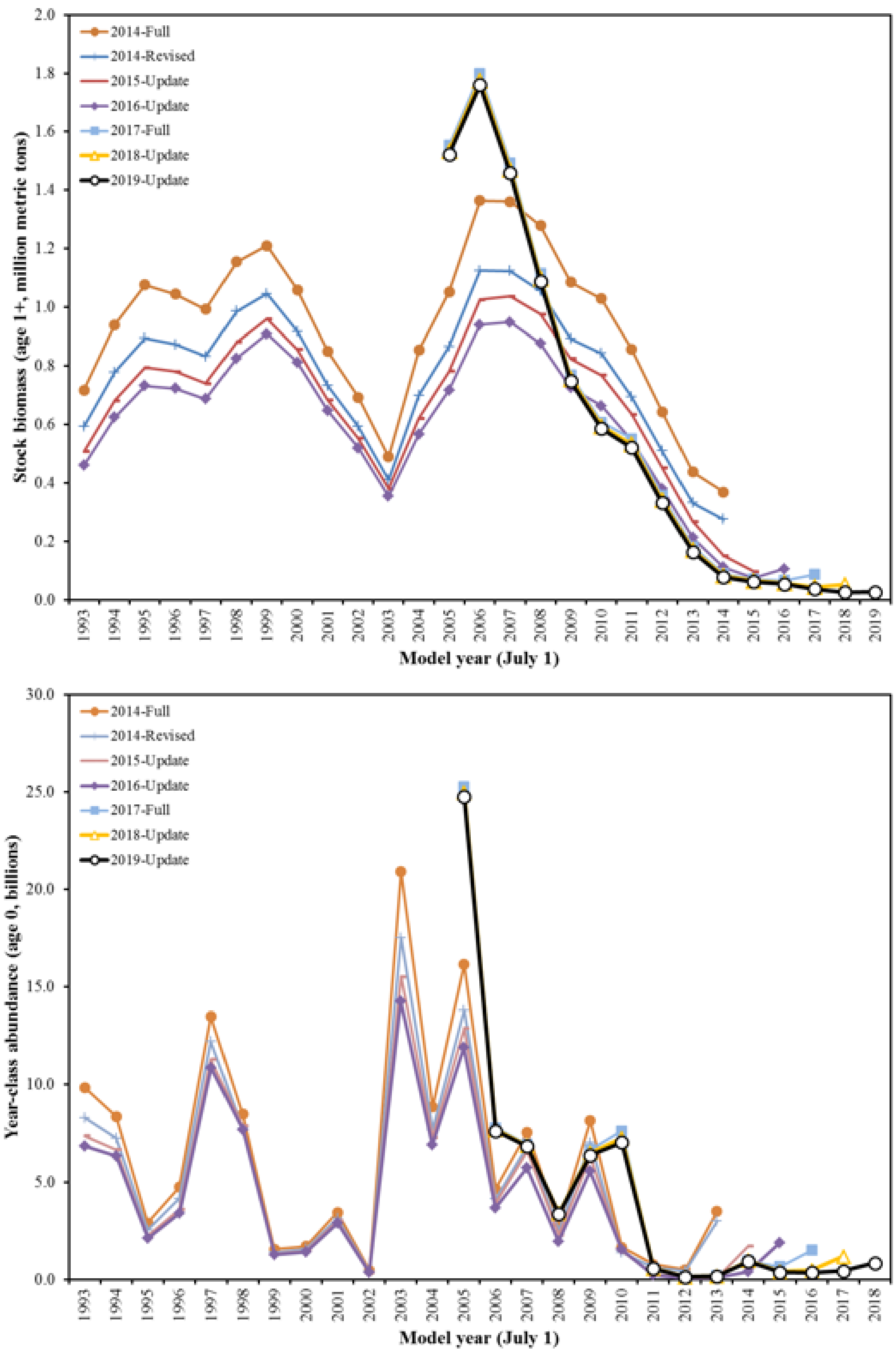


Figure 34. Estimated stock biomass (age 1+ fish, mt, upper panel) and recruitment (lower panel) time series for model ALT-2019 and past assessment model used for management.

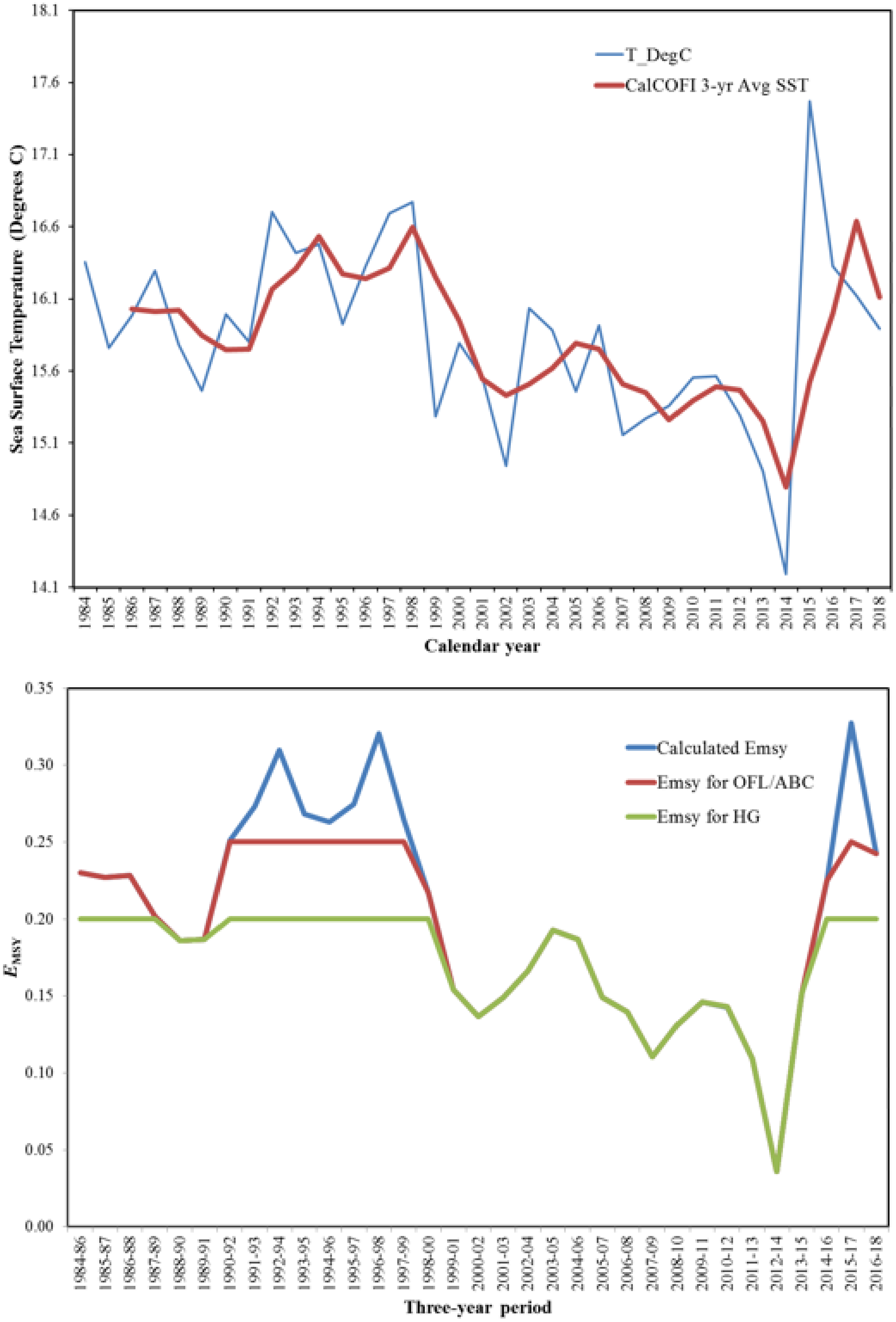


Figure 35. CalCOFI sea surface temperatures (SST, °C, upper panel) and calculated E_{MSY} values (lower panel).

Appendix A.

SS Input Files for Model ALT

STARTER.SS

```
# Pacific sardine stock assessment (2019-20)
# K.T. Hill, P.R. Crone, J.P. Zwolinski (Feb 2019)
# Model ALT
# SS model (ver. 3.24aa)
# Starter file
#
ALT_19.dat
ALT_19.ctl
0 # 0=use init values in control file; 1=use ss3.par
1 # Run display detail (0,1,2)
2 # Detailed age-structured reports in REPORT.SSO: (0,1,2)
1 # Write detailed checkup.sso file (0,1)
3 # Write parm values to ParmTrace.sso (0=no,1=good,active; 2=good,all; 3=every_iter,all_parms;
          4=every,active)
2 # Write to cumreport.sso (0=no, 1=like&timeseries, 2=add survey fits)
0 # Include prior_like for non-estimated parameters (0,1)
1 # Use soft boundaries to aid convergence: (0,1)
1 # Number of datafiles to produce: 1st is input, 2nd is estimates, 3rd and higher are bootstrap
10 # Turn off estimation for parameters entering after this phase
10 # MCeval burn interval
2 # MCeval thin interval
0.05 # Jitter initial parm value by this fraction
-1 # Min yr for sdreport outputs (-1 for styr)
-2 # Max yr for sdreport outputs (-1 for endyr; -2 for endyr+Nforecastyrs
0 # N individual STD years
# Vector of year values
0.00001 # Final convergence criteria (e.g., 1.0e-05)
0 # Retrospective year relative to end year (e.g. -4)
1 # Min age for calc of summary biomass
1 # Depletion basis:  denom is: 0=skip; 1=rel X*B0; 2=rel X*Bmsy; 3=rel X*B_styr
1 # Fraction (X) for depletion denominator (e.g. 0.4)
4  #  SPR_report_basis:  0=skip;  1=(1-SPR)/(1-SPR_tgt);  2=(1-SPR)/(1-SPR_MSY);  3=(1-SPR)/(1-
          SPR_Btarget); 4=rawSPR
4 # F_report_units: 0=skip; 1=exploitation(Bio); 2=exploitation(Num); 3=sum(Frates); 4=true F for
          range of ages
0 8 # Min and max age over which average F will be calculated with F_reporting=4
2 # F_report_basis: 0=raw; 1=F/Fspr; 2=F/Fmsy ; 3=F/Fbtgt
999 # End of file
```

FORECAST.SS

```
# Pacific sardine stock assessment update for 2019-20 mgmt
# K.T. Hill, P.R. Crone, J.P. Zwolinski (Feb 2019)
# Model ALT
# SS model (ver. 3.24aa)
# Forecast file
#
# Note: for all year entries except rebuilder, enter either: actual year, -999 for styr, 0 for
          endyr, neg number for relative endyr
1 #_Benchmarks: 0=skip, 1=calc F_spr,F_btgt,F_msy
2 #_MSY: 1= set to F(SPR), 2=calc F(MSY), 3=set to F(Btgt), 4=set to F(endyr)
0.4 #_SPR target (e.g., 0.40)
0.4 #_Biomass target (e.g., 0.40)
# Bmark_years: beg_bio, end_bio, beg_selex, end_selex, beg_relF, end_relF (enter actual year, or
          values of 0 or -integer to be rel. endyr)
0 0 0 0 0 0
1 # Bmark_relF_basis: 1 = use year range; 2 = set relF same as forecast below
1 # Forecast: 0=none; 1=F(SPR); 2=F(MSY) 3=F(Btgt); 4=Ave F (uses first-last relF yrs); 5=input
          annual F scalar
1 # N forecast years
0 # F scalar (only used for Do_Forecast==5)
# Fcast_years: beg_selex, end_selex, beg_relF, end_relF  (enter actual year, or values of 0 or -
          integer to be rel. endyr)
0 0 0 0
```

```
1 # Control rule method (1=catch=f(SSB) west coast, 2=F=f(SSB) )
0.5 # Control rule Biomass level for constant F (as frac of Bzero, e.g. 0.40); (Must be > the no F
          level below)
0.1 # Control rule Biomass level for no F (as frac of Bzero, e.g. 0.10)
0.75 # Control rule target as fraction of Flimit (e.g. 0.75)
3 # N forecast loops
3 # First forecast loop with stochastic recruitment
0 # Forecast loop control #3 (reserved for future bells&whistles)
0 # Forecast loop control #4 (reserved for future bells&whistles)
0 # Forecast loop control #5 (reserved for future bells&whistles)
2020 # FirstYear for caps and allocations (should be after years with fixed inputs)
0 # Stddev of log(realized catch/target catch) in forecast (set value>0.0 to cause active
          impl_error)
0 # Do West Coast gfish rebuilder output (0/1)
0 # Rebuilder: first year catch could have been set to zero (Ydecl)(-1 to set to 1999)
0 # Rebuilder: year for current age structure (Yinit) (-1 to set to endyear+1)
1 # Fleet relative F: 1=use first-last alloc year, 2=read seas(row) x fleet(col) below
# Note: fleet allocation is used directly as average F if Do_Forecast=4
2 # Basis for forecast catch tuning and for forecast catch caps and allocation: 2=deadbio,
          3=retainbio, 5=deadnum, 6=retainnum
# Conditional input if relative F option=2
# Fleet relative F: rows are seasons, columns are fleets
# Fleet: MexCal_S1 MexCal_S2 PNW
# 0 0 0 # S1
# 0 0 0 # S2
# Max total catch by fleet (-1 to have no max): must enter value for each fleet
-1 -1 -1
# Max total catch by area (-1 to have no max): must enter value for each fleet
-1
# Fleet assignment to allocation group (enter group ID# for each fleet, 0 for not included in an
          alloc group)
0 0 0
# Conditional on >1 allocation group
# Allocation fraction for each of: 0 allocation groups
# No allocation groups
6 # Number of forecast catch levels to input (or else calculate catch from forecast F)
2 # Basis for input forecast catch: 2=dead catch, 3=retained catch, 99 = input Hrate(F) with units
          that are from fishery units
# Input fixed catch values
# Year Season Fleet Catch
2019    1  1    35.31
2019    2  1    0.00
2019    1  2    0.00
2019    2  2    11439.68
2019    1  3    7.90
2019    2  3    2.20
999 # End of file
```

ALT_19.DAT

```
# Pacific sardine stock assessment update for 2019-20 mgmt
# K.T. Hill, P.R. Crone, J.P. Zwolinski (Feb 2019)
# Model ALT
# SS model (ver. 3.24aa)
# Data file
#
2005 # Start year
2018 # End year (ADVANCED ONE YEAR; FORECAST=2019-20)
2 # N_seasons
6 6 # Months per season (2 semesters per fishing year)
2 # Spawning season (Spring semester)
3 # N_fleets
1 # N_surveys
1 # N_areas
MexCal_S1%MexCal_S2%PNW%AT_Survey
0.5 0.5 0.5 0.75 # Survey timing in season
1 1 1 1 # Area assignments for each fishery/survey
1 1 1 # Units of catch: 1=biomass, 2=number
0.05 0.05 0.05 # SE of log(catch), only used for initial equilibrium catch and for Fmethod=2-3
1 # N_genders
10 # N_ages
1000 0 0 # Initial equilibrium catch for each fishery
```

```
28 # N_lines of catch to read
# Catch biomass(mt): columns are fisheries, year, season
# LANDINGS (FINAL 2016 AND PRELIM 2017)
13802.99	0.00	54152.62	2005	1
0.00	30364.20	101.70	2005	2
20726.23	0.00	41220.90	2006	1
0.00	39900.28	0.00	2006	2
46228.11	0.00	48237.10	2007	1
0.00	42910.05	0.00	2007	2
30249.18	0.00	39800.10	2008	1
0.00	41198.49	0.00	2008	2
14044.87	0.00	44841.15	2009	1
0.00	31146.46	1369.73	2009	2
11273.97	0.00	54085.91	2010	1
0.00	27267.62	0.09	2010	2
24871.40	0.00	39750.49	2011	1
0.00	23189.90	5805.63	2011	2
1528.37	0.00	91425.63	2012	1
0.00	13884.90	1570.78	2012	2
921.56	0.00	57217.96	2013	1
0.00	5625.03	908.01	2013	2
1830.92	0.00	15216.82	2014	1
0.00	727.71	2193.87	2014	2
6.13	0.00	66.28	2015	1
0.00	185.82	1.40	2015	2
283.54	0.00	87.90	2016	1
0.00	9364.63	0.10	2016	2
170.41	0.00	1.20	2017	1
0.00	11439.68	2.20	2017	2
35.31	0.00	7.90	2018	1
0.00	11439.68	2.20	2018	2
#
17 #_N_cpue_and_surveyabundance_observations
#_Units:  0=numbers; 1=biomass; 2=F
#_Errtype:  -1=normal; 0=lognormal; >0=T
#_Fleet Units Errtype
1 1 0 # MexCal_S1
2 1 0 # MexCal_S2
3 1 0 # PNW
4 1 0 # ATM
# Year season index obs error
2005	2	4	1947063	0.30	# AT_0604
2007	2	4	751075	0.09	# AT_0804
2009	2	4	357006	0.41	# AT_1004
2010	2	4	493672	0.30	# AT_1104
2011	2	4	469480	0.28	# AT_1204
2012	2	4	305146	0.24	# AT_1304
2013	2	4	35339	0.38	# AT_1404
2014	2	4	29048	0.29	# AT_1504
2015	2	4	83030	0.47	# AT_1604
2008	1	4	801000	0.30	# AT_0807
2012	1	4	340831	0.33	# AT_1207
2013	1	4	313746	0.27	# AT_1307
2014	1	4	26280	0.63	# AT_1407
2015	1	4	15870	0.70	# AT_1507
2016	1	4	78770	0.51	# AT_1607
2017	1	4	24349	0.36	#_AT_1707(corrected from 36644)
2018	1	4	35501	0.65	#_AT_1807
#
0 # N_fleets with discard
# Discard units: 1=same_as_catch units (bio/num), 2=fraction, 3=numbers
# Discard error type: >0 for DF of T-dist(read CV below), 0 for normal with CV, -1 for normal with
          se, -2 for lognormal
# Fleet discard units and error type
0 # N_discard obs
# Year season index obs error
#
0 # N_meanbodywt obs
100 # DF for_meanbodywt t-distribution likelihood
#
2 # Length bin method: 1=use databins; 2=generate from binwidth,min,max below; 3=read vector
```

```
0.5 # Bin width for population size composition
8 # Minimum size in the population (lower edge of first bin and size at age 0)
30 # Maximum size in the population (lower edge of last bin)
-0.0001 # Composition tail compression
0.0001 # Add to composition
0 # Combine males into females at or below this bin number
39 # N_length bins
9 9.5 10 10.5 11 11.5 12 12.5 13 13.5 14 14.5 15 15.5 16 16.5 17 17.5 18 18.5 19 19.5 20 20.5 21
          21.5 22 22.5 23 23.5 24 24.5 25 25.5 26 26.5 27 27.5 28
17 # N_length obs
# Year Season Fleet/Survey Gender Part Nsamp Datavector(female-male)
2005   2  4    0       0       10.00  0.00000000     0.00000000     0.00000000     0.00000000
               0.00000000     0.00000000     0.00000000     0.00000000     0.00270862
               0.00270862     0.00000000     0.00000000     0.01100873     0.01100873
               0.12353364     0.12353364     0.06453880     0.06453880     0.15773170
               0.15773170     0.06426980     0.06426980     0.05009669     0.05009669
               0.01516183     0.01516183     0.00505394     0.00505394     0.00000000
               0.00000000     0.00168465     0.00168465     0.00336930     0.00336930
               0.00168465     0.00000000     0.00000000     0.00000000     0.00000000
2007   2  4    0       0       12.00  0.00000000     0.00000000     0.00000000     0.00000000
               0.00000000     0.00000000     0.00000000     0.00000000     0.00000000
               0.00000000     0.00000000     0.00000000     0.00000000     0.00000000
               0.01871052     0.01871052     0.04456086     0.04456086     0.07885461
               0.07885461     0.07720993     0.07720993     0.09196321     0.09196321
               0.10803940     0.10803940     0.06881783     0.06881783     0.00321240
               0.00321240     0.00825866     0.00825866     0.00037258     0.00037258
               0.00000000     0.00000000     0.00000000     0.00000000     0.00000000
2009   2  4    0       0       19.00  0.00000000     0.00000000     0.00000000     0.00000000
               0.00071913     0.00071913     0.00036184     0.00036184     0.00000000
               0.00000000     0.00121512     0.00121512     0.00265337     0.00265337
               0.00332081     0.00332081     0.00555546     0.00555546     0.00224440
               0.00224440     0.00833426     0.00833426     0.05506318     0.05506318
               0.17107802     0.17107802     0.16580872     0.16580872     0.06954074
               0.06954074     0.01153821     0.01153821     0.00243023     0.00243023
               0.00027301     0.00000000     0.00000000     0.00000000     0.00000000
2010   2  4    0       0       18.00  0.00000000     0.00000000     0.00000000     0.00000000
               0.00000000     0.00000000     0.00000449     0.00000449     0.00000000
               0.00000000     0.00000000     0.00000000     0.00015121     0.00015121
               0.08020558     0.08020558     0.22135962     0.22135962     0.08918809
               0.08918809     0.04535153     0.04535153     0.00957193     0.00957193
               0.00287216     0.00287216     0.01710648     0.01710648     0.02239309
               0.02239309     0.00960401     0.00960401     0.00139900     0.00139900
               0.00158562     0.00000000     0.00000000     0.00000000     0.00000000
2011   2  4    0       0       12.00  0.00000000     0.00000000     0.00000000     0.00000000
               0.00000000     0.00000000     0.00000000     0.00000000     0.00000000
               0.00000000     0.00000000     0.00000000     0.00000000     0.00000000
               0.00000000     0.00000000     0.00966230     0.00966230     0.00000000
               0.00000000     0.00874343     0.00874343     0.09109599     0.09109599
               0.11348639     0.11348639     0.05587484     0.05587484     0.10595060
               0.10595060     0.08715280     0.08715280     0.02797210     0.02797210
               0.00006153     0.00006153     0.00000000     0.00000000     0.00000000
2012   2  4    0       0       18.00  0.00000000     0.00000000     0.00000000     0.00000000
               0.00000000     0.00000000     0.00000000     0.00000000     0.00000000
               0.00000000     0.00000000     0.00000000     0.00000000     0.00000000
               0.00000000     0.00000000     0.00000000     0.00000000     0.00087027
               0.00087027     0.00043514     0.00043514     0.01933857     0.01933857
               0.15265050     0.15265050     0.18642185     0.18642185     0.07407997
               0.07407997     0.04749947     0.04749947     0.00758276     0.00758276
               0.01112147     0.01112147     0.00000000     0.00000000     0.00000000
2013   2  4    0       0       4.00   0.00000000     0.00000000     0.00000000     0.00000000
               0.00000000     0.00000000     0.00000000     0.00000000     0.00000000
               0.00000000     0.00000000     0.00000000     0.00000000     0.00000000
               0.00000000     0.00000000     0.00000000     0.00000000     0.00000000
               0.00000000     0.00000000     0.00000000     0.00000000     0.00000000
               0.00000000     0.00000000     0.03553942     0.03553942     0.32050317
               0.32050317     0.10057675     0.10057675     0.04338066     0.04338066
               0.00000000     0.00000000     0.00000000     0.00000000     0.00000000
2014   2  4    0       0       6.00   0.00000000     0.00000000     0.00000000     0.00000000
               0.00000000     0.00000000     0.00000000     0.00000000     0.00000000
               0.00000000     0.00000000     0.00000000     0.00000000     0.00000000
               0.00000000     0.00000000     0.00195881     0.00195881     0.00000000
```

			0.00000000	0.04068968	0.04068968	0.12361069	0.12361069		
			0.00000000	0.00000000	0.00000000	0.00000000	0.01110877		
			0.01110877	0.18187444	0.18187444	0.12041276	0.12041276		
			0.02034484	0.02034484	0.00000000	0.00000000	0.00000000		
2015	2	4	0	0	8.00	0.00000000	0.00000000	0.00000000	0.00000000
			0.00003149	0.00003149	0.00020758	0.00020758	0.02511719		
			0.02511719	0.11809357	0.11809357	0.08903510	0.08903510		
			0.02052566	0.02052566	0.00228070	0.00228070	0.00000000		
			0.00000000	0.02749376	0.02749376	0.03859413	0.03859413		
			0.02441912	0.02441912	0.00723552	0.00723552	0.00343672		
			0.00343672	0.04204884	0.04204884	0.06323913	0.06323913		
			0.03824149	0.03824149	0.00000000	0.00000000	0.00000000		
2008	1	4	0	0	27.00	0.01700544	0.01700544	0.02210707	0.02210707
			0.00680218	0.00680218	0.00000000	0.00000000	0.00000000		
			0.00000000	0.00000000	0.00000000	0.00000000	0.00000000		
			0.00680218	0.00680218	0.02009720	0.02009720	0.02164783		
			0.02164783	0.08951514	0.08951514	0.10939327	0.10939327		
			0.14029251	0.14029251	0.05385909	0.05385909	0.01118376		
			0.01118376	0.00129435	0.00129435	0.00000000	0.00000000		
			0.00000000	0.00000000	0.00000000	0.00000000	0.00000000		
2012	1	4	0	0	26.00	0.00000000	0.00000000	0.00000000	0.00000000
			0.00000000	0.00000000	0.00000000	0.00000000	0.00000000		
			0.00000000	0.00000000	0.00000000	0.00000000	0.00000000		
			0.00000000	0.00000000	0.00000000	0.00000000	0.00035481		
			0.00035481	0.00193496	0.00193496	0.13636929	0.13636929		
			0.21595031	0.21595031	0.06930702	0.06930702	0.04528789		
			0.04528789	0.02760803	0.02760803	0.00294741	0.00294741		
			0.00024028	0.00024028	0.00000000	0.00000000	0.00000000		
2013	1	4	0	0	23.00	0.00000000	0.00000000	0.00000000	0.00000000
			0.00000000	0.00000000	0.00000000	0.00000000	0.00000000		
			0.00000000	0.00000000	0.00000000	0.00000000	0.00000000		
			0.00000000	0.00000000	0.00000000	0.00000000	0.00000000		
			0.00000000	0.00000000	0.00000000	0.00002651	0.00002651		
			0.02839681	0.02839681	0.20512511	0.20512511	0.17157365		
			0.17157365	0.07299605	0.07299605	0.02026224	0.02026224		
			0.00161961	0.00161961	0.00000000	0.00000000	0.00000000		
2014	1	4	0	0	7.00	0.00204979	0.00204979	0.00000000	0.00000000
			0.00000000	0.00000000	0.00000000	0.00000000	0.00000000		
			0.00000000	0.00000369	0.00000369	0.00000000	0.00000000		
			0.00000000	0.00000000	0.00000000	0.00000000	0.00000000		
			0.00000000	0.00000000	0.00000000	0.00000000	0.00000000		
			0.00000000	0.00000000	0.00903077	0.00903077	0.15522242		
			0.15522242	0.26099332	0.26099332	0.06138772	0.06138772		
			0.01131228	0.01131228	0.00000000	0.00000000	0.00000000		
2015	1	4	0	0	17.00	0.40403690	0.40403690	0.00000000	0.00000000
			0.00000000	0.00000000	0.00000000	0.00000000	0.00000000		
			0.00000000	0.00000000	0.00000000	0.00000000	0.00000000		
			0.00000380	0.00000380	0.00000000	0.00000000	0.00000000		
			0.00000000	0.00000000	0.00000000	0.00187125	0.00187125		
			0.00561487	0.00561487	0.00192622	0.00192622	0.00374361		
			0.00374361	0.02701399	0.02701399	0.04906669	0.04906669		
			0.00666849	0.00666849	0.00005418	0.00005418	0.00000000		
2016	1	4	0	0	12.00	0.02582573	0.02582573	0.00516515	0.00516515
			0.00000000	0.00000000	0.00516515	0.00516515	0.00019948		
			0.00019948	0.00080251	0.00080251	0.00518937	0.00518937		
			0.03520717	0.03520717	0.15997810	0.15997810	0.08620133		
			0.08620133	0.16424753	0.16424753	0.00260972	0.00260972		
			0.00033790	0.00033790	0.00115483	0.00115483	0.00100394		
			0.00100394	0.00189810	0.00189810	0.00277042	0.00277042		
			0.00195391	0.00195391	0.00028966	0.00028966	0.00000000		
2017	1	4	0	0	19.00	0.08321949	0.08321949	0.07565853	0.07565853
			0.00000000	0.00000000	0.00000000	0.00000000	0.00000000		
			0.00000000	0.00000000	0.00000000	0.00000000	0.00000000		
			0.00000000	0.00000000	0.00004553	0.00004553	0.01264545		
			0.01264545	0.00290707	0.00290707	0.04508785	0.04508785		
			0.08381019	0.08381019	0.11707818	0.11707818	0.05020572		
			0.05020572	0.00869826	0.00869826	0.00707868	0.00707868		
			0.01281473	0.01281473	0.00075031	0.00075031	0.00000000		
2018	1	4	0	0	20.00	0.00510455	0.00510455	0.03291222	0.03291222
			0.06227714	0.06227714	0.05359957	0.05359957	0.01612590		
			0.01612590	0.00000000	0.00000000	0.02109010	0.02109010		

```
               0.03932125     0.03932125     0.03753191     0.03753191     0.00450378
               0.00450378     0.00083222     0.00083222     0.00038580     0.00038580
               0.00119611     0.00119611     0.00188129     0.00188129     0.02754743
               0.02754743     0.09077191     0.09077191     0.08388225     0.08388225
               0.01876700     0.01876700     0.00048997     0.00048997     0.00355919
#
9 # N_age bins

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

6  # N_ageerror definitions

#

0.5    1.5    2.5    3.5    4.5    5.5    6.5    7.5    8.5    9.5    10.5 # 1_CA_1981-06
0.2832 0.2832 0.289  0.8009 0.8038 0.9597 1.1156 1.2715 1.4274 1.5833 1.7392 # 1_CA_1981-06
0.5    1.5    2.5    3.5    4.5    5.5    6.5    7.5    8.5    9.5    10.5 # 2_CA_2007
0.2539 0.2539 0.3434 0.9205 0.9653 1.1743 1.3832 1.5922 1.8011 2.0101 2.219 # 2_CA_2007
0.5    1.5    2.5    3.5    4.5    5.5    6.5    7.5    8.5    9.5    10.5 # 3_CA_2008-09
0.4032 0.4032 0.4995 0.58   0.6902 0.8246 0.9727 1.0165 1.1144 1.2123 1.3102 # 3_CA_2008-09
0.5    1.5    2.5    3.5    4.5    5.5    6.5    7.5    8.5    9.5    10.5 # 4_CA_2010-13
0.2825 0.2825 0.2955 0.3125 0.3347 0.3637 0.4017 0.4046 0.4245 0.4445 0.4645 # 4_CA_2010-13
0.5    1.5    2.5    3.5    4.5    5.5    6.5    7.5    8.5    9.5    10.5 # 5_ORWA_all
0.26655 0.30145 0.3149 0.3615 0.3847 0.3961 0.4018 0.4047 0.4061 0.4352 0.4487 # 5_ORWA_all
0.5    1.5    2.5    3.5    4.5    5.5    6.5    7.5    8.5    9.5    10.5 # 6_CalCOFI_C
0.5386 0.5386 0.7547 0.8341 0.8634 0.8741 0.8781 0.8796 0.8801 0.8801 0.8801 # 6_CalCOFI_C
#
47 # N_age composition obs
3 # Length bin method: 1=poplenbins, 2=datalenbins, 3=lengths
-1 # Combine males into females at or below this bin number
# Age comps (CAAL)
# Year Season Fleet/Survey Gender Part Ageerr Lbin_lo Lbin_hi Nsamp datavector(female-male)
2005   1  1   0      0      1      -1  -1  35.24  0.09102697     0.26552164     0.59466314
               0.04284618     0.00412282     0.00121284     0.00060642     0.00000000
               0.00000000
2006   1  1   0      0      1      -1  -1  69.76  0.00908783     0.64539166     0.30295669
               0.04256381     0.00000000     0.00000000     0.00000000     0.00000000
               0.00000000
2007   1  1   0      0      2      -1  -1  86.00  0.01357889     0.16055166     0.64593872
               0.17061145     0.00931929     0.00000000     0.00000000     0.00000000
               0.00000000
2008   1  1   0      0      3      -1  -1  30.84  0.06153622     0.26350954     0.58776778
               0.07218948     0.01499698     0.00000000     0.00000000     0.00000000
               0.00000000
2009   1  1   0      0      3      -1  -1  22.88  0.00349661     0.21120316     0.63114846
               0.14041369     0.01373808     0.00000000     0.00000000     0.00000000
               0.00000000
2010   1  1   0      0      4      -1  -1  12.68  0.01577287     0.79179811     0.16719243
               0.02523659     0.00000000     0.00000000     0.00000000     0.00000000
               0.00000000
2011   1  1   0      0      4      -1  -1  21.64  0.00000000     0.32278273     0.47187076
               0.19905465     0.00629186     0.00000000     0.00000000     0.00000000
               0.00000000
2012   1  1   0      0      4      -1  -1  22.32  0.00335775     0.10053293     0.44773547
               0.37325638     0.05790999     0.01147166     0.00573583     0.00000000
               0.00000000
2013   1  1   0      0      4      -1  -1  15.84  0.01132400     0.02443363     0.25675788
               0.29354382     0.33484537     0.04608165     0.01688430     0.00806468
               0.00806468
2014   1  1   0      0      4      -1  -1  5.92   0.00009926     0.00000451     0.00000451
               0.08063643     0.53220043     0.28222750     0.08870007     0.01612729
               0.00000000
2005   2  2   0      0      1      -1  -1  89.04  0.53994582     0.36702223     0.08416083
               0.00500806     0.00132284     0.00090732     0.00072560     0.00045366
               0.00045366
2006   2  2   0      0      1      -1  -1  105.16 0.20172661     0.63015996     0.15000726
               0.01740041     0.00070577     0.00000000     0.00000000     0.00000000
               0.00000000
2007   2  2   0      0      2      -1  -1  67.44  0.42021952     0.43386305     0.10589809
               0.03396340     0.00544372     0.00061223     0.00000000     0.00000000
               0.00000000
```

```
2008   2  2   0      0      3      -1  -1  39.76  0.19862191    0.52834154    0.21532639
              0.05558720    0.00212296    0.00000000    0.00000000    0.00000000
              0.00000000
2009   2  2   0      0      3      -1  -1  98.08  0.44090117    0.44149224    0.11209083
              0.00372405    0.00179171    0.00000000    0.00000000    0.00000000
              0.00000000
2010   2  2   0      0      4      -1  -1  31.40  0.50304830    0.32470002    0.01757707
              0.02625377    0.05345083    0.06594583    0.00763583    0.00069417
              0.00069417
2011   2  2   0      0      4      -1  -1  54.88  0.20910019    0.35249163    0.22419952
              0.08833225    0.04648802    0.03648118    0.03009719    0.01083858
              0.00197145
2012   2  2   0      0      4      -1  -1  8.92   0.01286056    0.18465132    0.56709595
              0.19900628    0.03408414    0.00153450    0.00076725    0.00000000
              0.00000000
2013   2  2   0      0      4      -1  -1  26.40  0.00400245    0.03541231    0.25560467
              0.43215639    0.18609710    0.05679863    0.01021883    0.01366366
              0.00604596
2014   2  2   0      0      4      -1  -1  13.88  0.19601085    0.54781269    0.21272334
              0.00361995    0.01478894    0.02384416    0.00120007    0.00000000
              0.00000000
2005   1  3   0      0      5      -1  -1  40.84  0.00000000    0.01355483    0.68729690
              0.14494663    0.04909713    0.02077143    0.01635392    0.01781254
              0.05016661
2006   1  3   0      0      5      -1  -1  26.92  0.00000000    0.00000000    0.01497099
              0.60873284    0.20905176    0.07984672    0.04903877    0.00985519
              0.02850373
2007   1  3   0      0      5      -1  -1  89.40  0.00000000    0.00000000    0.03684181
              0.45391632    0.40243125    0.08105161    0.01657055    0.00464352
              0.00454494
2008   1  3   0      0      5      -1  -1  94.00  0.00000000    0.00000000    0.00238411
              0.12188750    0.50241139    0.30400027    0.05113905    0.01114247
              0.00703520
2009   1  3   0      0      5      -1  -1  93.24  0.00000000    0.00000000    0.00497725
              0.03834955    0.30673956    0.39095629    0.20858215    0.04278986
              0.00760533
2010   1  3   0      0      5      -1  -1  33.76  0.00000000    0.00000000    0.00486375
              0.03556323    0.20782114    0.39064640    0.24531203    0.09814472
              0.01764872
2011   1  3   0      0      5      -1  -1  42.88  0.00000000    0.00357123    0.03311394
              0.04935194    0.12486830    0.30299646    0.28571874    0.16388915
              0.03649023
2012   1  3   0      0      5      -1  -1  118.24 0.00000000    0.00058319    0.34026869
              0.21053451    0.06934004    0.04548403    0.07671303    0.10090398
              0.15617254
2013   1  3   0      0      5      -1  -1  138.92 0.00000000    0.00000000    0.03331987
              0.59242727    0.18326590    0.04825943    0.03647473    0.04773246
              0.05852034
2014   1  3   0      0      5      -1  -1  49.68  0.00000000    0.00000000    0.00000000
              0.04583663    0.65905889    0.17432845    0.05249064    0.03186569
              0.03641970
2008   1  4   0      0      6      -1        -1     27.00  0.08731171    0.04380052
              0.26575501    0.36538608    0.19445315    0.02418848    0.00829887
              0.00773572    0.00307052    #_ATM_0807
2012   1  4   0      0      6      -1        -1     26.00  0.00001520    0.01677598
              0.23653229    0.40645653    0.24558422    0.04880821    0.02070141
              0.01687986    0.00824632    #_ATM_1207
2013   1  4   0      0      6      -1        -1     23.00  0.00000100    0.00499673
              0.15131654    0.36165968    0.26882845    0.10206614    0.05161105
              0.03794263    0.02157775    #_ATM_1307
2014   1  4   0      0      6      -1        -1     7.00   0.00401556    0.00178747
              0.09319014    0.28674884    0.25004562    0.16133568    0.09638624
              0.06409438    0.04239605    #_ATM_1407
2015   1  4   0      0      6      -1        -1     17.00  0.79121499    0.01653593
              0.01533798    0.04501253    0.04114013    0.03734153    0.02580894
              0.01569317    0.01191480    #_ATM_1507
2016   1  4   0      0      6      -1        -1     12.00  0.07423564    0.14454549
              0.36224125    0.29585694    0.11067899    0.00621347    0.00285455
              0.00212853    0.00124515    #_ATM_1607
2017   1  4   0      0      6      -1        -1     19.00  0.30899732    0.02066133
              0.15195058    0.26659295    0.16633204    0.04130584    0.02042838
```

```
               0.01505855     0.00867301     #_ATM_1707
2018    1  4   0       0      6      -1      -1     20.00   0.28476061     0.11144035
               0.12373664     0.16428330     0.11948873     0.08309441     0.05433855
               0.03411701     0.02474040     #_ATM_1807
2005    2  4   0       0      6      -1      -1     10.00   0.04097055     0.26719664
               0.40185645     0.20502934     0.06231908     0.01777227     0.00392903
               0.00072135     0.00020532     #_ATM_0604
2007    2  4   0       0      6      -1      -1     12.00   0.01096180     0.12544972
               0.29386586     0.32190324     0.17145667     0.06094926     0.01307678
               0.00178334     0.00055332     #_ATM_0804
2009    2  4   0       0      6      -1      -1     19.00   0.00481952     0.03387770
               0.13939793     0.35867340     0.29524038     0.12936332     0.03219387
               0.00494117     0.00149270     #_ATM_1004
2010    2  4   0       0      6      -1      -1     18.00   0.03694126     0.28170239
               0.40268130     0.17414783     0.06689676     0.02781991     0.00788978
               0.00149273     0.00042807     #_ATM_1104
2011    2  4   0       0      6      -1      -1     12.00   0.00125332     0.02871729
               0.12482482     0.31089259     0.30276895     0.16512145     0.05264767
               0.01074155     0.00303233     #_ATM_1204
2012    2  4   0       0      6      -1      -1     18.00   0.00021479     0.01468604
               0.09973243     0.33734389     0.32554332     0.16291630     0.04769501
               0.00923904     0.00262919     #_ATM_1304
2013    2  4   0       0      6      -1      -1     4.00    0.00001100     0.00230515
               0.03046514     0.23762094     0.37986376     0.24421439     0.08331543
               0.01732321     0.00488095     #_ATM_1404
2014    2  4   0       0      6      -1      -1     6.00    0.00096497     0.02929461
               0.11198702     0.22449596     0.29105970     0.21911163     0.09227308
               0.02431374     0.00649928     #_ATM_1504
2015    2  4   0       0      6      -1      -1     8.00    0.15162306     0.25553182
               0.17387315     0.11993204     0.13544885     0.10271864     0.04501109
               0.01254897     0.00331238     #_ATM_1604
#
0 # N_mean_length-at-age_obs_ (Not used)
0 # N_environment variables
0 # N_environment obs
0 # N_sizefreq methods to read in
0 # No tag data
0 # No morph composition data
999 # End of file
```

WTATAGE.SS

```
184  #_user_must_replace_this_value_with_number_of_lines_with_wtatage_below


10 # maxage

# if yr=-yr, then fill remaining years for that seas, growpattern, gender, fleet


# fleet 0 contains begin season pop WT

# fleet -1 contains mid season pop WT

# fleet -2 contains maturity*fecundity

#yr seas gender growpattern birthseas fleet  0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

-1993   2  1    1      1      -2     0.0046  0.0354  0.0773  0.1100  0.1339  0.1515  0.1644  0.1739
               0.1808  0.1858  0.1939  #_fecundity*maturity from T_2017_abbrev with Bev's new ogive
-1993   1  1    1      1      -1     0.0161  0.0542  0.0837  0.1103  0.1323  0.1497  0.1630  0.1729
               0.1801  0.1854  0.1941  #_Popn S1 Mid-season from T_2017_abbrev
-1993   2  1    1      1      -1     0.0396  0.0691  0.0975  0.1219  0.1416  0.1568  0.1683  0.1768
               0.1830  0.1875  0.1948  #_Popn S2 Mid-season from T_2017_abbrev
-1993   1  1    1      1      0      0.0075  0.0469  0.0765  0.1040  0.1273  0.1458  0.1600  0.1707
               0.1785  0.1842  0.1936  #_Popn S1 Beg-season from T_2017_abbrev
-1993   2  1    1      1      0      0.0327  0.0617  0.0907  0.1162  0.1371  0.1534  0.1657  0.1749
               0.1816  0.1865  0.1944  #_Popn S2 Beg-season from T_2017_abbrev
1993    1  1    1      1      1      0.0210  0.0362  0.0771  0.0620  0.0744  0.0886  0.1959  0.2205
               0.2113  0.1831  0.1906  #_MexCal_S1_Sem1
1994    1  1    1      1      1      0.0210  0.0723  0.0885  0.0996  0.1278  0.1508  0.1777  0.1959
               0.2205  0.2113  0.1906  #_MexCal_S1_Sem1
```

```
1995   1  1   1      1      1      0.0429 0.0581 0.0848 0.0885 0.1117 0.1355 0.1547 0.1788
              0.1959 0.2205 0.2113 #_MexCal_S1_Sem1
1996   1  1   1      1      1      0.0210 0.0825 0.0977 0.1098 0.1173 0.1288 0.1547 0.1652
              0.1798 0.1959 0.2205 #_MexCal_S1_Sem1
1997   1  1   1      1      1      0.0340 0.0598 0.0844 0.1043 0.1361 0.1600 0.1574 0.1652
              0.1728 0.1831 0.1959 #_MexCal_S1_Sem1
1998   1  1   1      1      1      0.0260 0.0446 0.0743 0.1086 0.1289 0.1450 0.1626 0.1721
              0.1728 0.1831 0.1906 #_MexCal_S1_Sem1
1999   1  1   1      1      1      0.0330 0.0487 0.0550 0.0792 0.1346 0.1355 0.1547 0.1652
              0.1728 0.1831 0.1906 #_MexCal_S1_Sem1
2000   1  1   1      1      1      0.0393 0.0658 0.0720 0.0712 0.0889 0.1606 0.1547 0.1652
              0.1728 0.1831 0.1906 #_MexCal_S1_Sem1
2001   1  1   1      1      1      0.0210 0.0772 0.0959 0.1325 0.1513 0.1218 0.1866 0.1633
              0.1728 0.1831 0.1906 #_MexCal_S1_Sem1
2002   1  1   1      1      1      0.0630 0.0668 0.0868 0.0958 0.1405 0.1556 0.1547 0.1866
              0.1728 0.1831 0.1906 #_MexCal_S1_Sem1
2003   1  1   1      1      1      0.0219 0.0734 0.0945 0.1191 0.1267 0.1476 0.1685 0.1652
              0.1866 0.1831 0.1906 #_MexCal_S1_Sem1
2004   1  1   1      1      1      0.0383 0.0530 0.0753 0.0952 0.1295 0.1512 0.1547 0.1652
              0.1728 0.1866 0.1906 #_MexCal_S1_Sem1
2005   1  1   1      1      1      0.0329 0.0416 0.0623 0.0852 0.1450 0.1398 0.1692 0.1652
              0.1728 0.1831 0.1906 #_MexCal_S1_Sem1
2006   1  1   1      1      1      0.0411 0.0477 0.0645 0.0795 0.1077 0.1581 0.1552 0.1840
              0.1728 0.1831 0.1906 #_MexCal_S1_Sem1
2007   1  1   1      1      1      0.0270 0.0490 0.0670 0.0906 0.1103 0.1253 0.1743 0.1840
              0.1901 0.1831 0.1906 #_MexCal_S1_Sem1
2008   1  1   1      1      1      0.0380 0.0671 0.0747 0.0931 0.1307 0.1581 0.1415 0.1840
              0.1901 0.1941 0.1906 #_MexCal_S1_Sem1
2009   1  1   1      1      1      0.0237 0.0642 0.0762 0.0800 0.1064 0.1380 0.1743 0.1840
              0.1901 0.1941 0.1992 #_MexCal_S1_Sem1
2010   1  1   1      1      1      0.0534 0.0585 0.0836 0.0818 0.1105 0.1197 0.1427 0.1840
              0.1901 0.1941 0.1992 #_MexCal_S1_Sem1
2011   1  1   1      1      1      0.0237 0.0812 0.0845 0.0967 0.1113 0.1272 0.1381 0.1481
              0.1901 0.1941 0.1992 #_MexCal_S1_Sem1
2012   1  1   1      1      1      0.0237 0.0630 0.0984 0.1141 0.1257 0.1302 0.1387 0.1840
              0.1901 0.1941 0.1992 #_MexCal_S1_Sem1
2013   1  1   1      1      1      0.0214 0.0452 0.1398 0.1365 0.1473 0.1512 0.1723 0.1592
              0.1901 0.1941 0.1992 #_MexCal_S1_Sem1
-2014  1  1   1      1      1      0.0323 0.0577 0.0803 0.1601 0.1690 0.1693 0.1659 0.1840
              0.1901 0.1941 0.1992 #_MexCal_S1_Sem1
1993   2  1   1      1      1      0.0210 0.0362 0.0771 0.0620 0.0744 0.0886 0.1959 0.2205
              0.2113 0.1831 0.1906 #_MexCal_S1_Sem2_(same_as_MexCal_S2)
1994   2  1   1      1      1      0.0210 0.0723 0.0885 0.0996 0.1278 0.1508 0.1777 0.1959
              0.2205 0.2113 0.1906 #_MexCal_S1_Sem2_(same_as_MexCal_S2)
1995   2  1   1      1      1      0.0429 0.0581 0.0848 0.0885 0.1117 0.1355 0.1547 0.1788
              0.1959 0.2205 0.2113 #_MexCal_S1_Sem2_(same_as_MexCal_S2)
1996   2  1   1      1      1      0.0210 0.0825 0.0977 0.1098 0.1173 0.1288 0.1547 0.1652
              0.1798 0.1959 0.2205 #_MexCal_S1_Sem2_(same_as_MexCal_S2)
1997   2  1   1      1      1      0.0340 0.0598 0.0844 0.1043 0.1361 0.1600 0.1574 0.1652
              0.1728 0.1831 0.1959 #_MexCal_S1_Sem2_(same_as_MexCal_S2)
1998   2  1   1      1      1      0.0260 0.0446 0.0743 0.1086 0.1289 0.1450 0.1626 0.1721
              0.1728 0.1831 0.1906 #_MexCal_S1_Sem2_(same_as_MexCal_S2)
1999   2  1   1      1      1      0.0330 0.0487 0.0550 0.0792 0.1346 0.1355 0.1547 0.1652
              0.1728 0.1831 0.1906 #_MexCal_S1_Sem2_(same_as_MexCal_S2)
2000   2  1   1      1      1      0.0393 0.0658 0.0720 0.0712 0.0889 0.1606 0.1547 0.1652
              0.1728 0.1831 0.1906 #_MexCal_S1_Sem2_(same_as_MexCal_S2)
2001   2  1   1      1      1      0.0210 0.0772 0.0959 0.1325 0.1513 0.1218 0.1866 0.1633
              0.1728 0.1831 0.1906 #_MexCal_S1_Sem2_(same_as_MexCal_S2)
2002   2  1   1      1      1      0.0630 0.0668 0.0868 0.0958 0.1405 0.1556 0.1547 0.1866
              0.1728 0.1831 0.1906 #_MexCal_S1_Sem2_(same_as_MexCal_S2)
2003   2  1   1      1      1      0.0219 0.0734 0.0945 0.1191 0.1267 0.1476 0.1685 0.1652
              0.1866 0.1831 0.1906 #_MexCal_S1_Sem2_(same_as_MexCal_S2)
2004   2  1   1      1      1      0.0383 0.0530 0.0753 0.0952 0.1295 0.1512 0.1547 0.1652
              0.1728 0.1866 0.1906 #_MexCal_S1_Sem2_(same_as_MexCal_S2)
2005   2  1   1      1      1      0.0329 0.0416 0.0623 0.0852 0.1450 0.1398 0.1692 0.1652
              0.1728 0.1831 0.1906 #_MexCal_S1_Sem2_(same_as_MexCal_S2)
2006   2  1   1      1      1      0.0411 0.0477 0.0645 0.0795 0.1077 0.1581 0.1552 0.1840
              0.1728 0.1831 0.1906 #_MexCal_S1_Sem2_(same_as_MexCal_S2)
2007   2  1   1      1      1      0.0270 0.0490 0.0670 0.0906 0.1103 0.1253 0.1743 0.1840
              0.1901 0.1831 0.1906 #_MexCal_S1_Sem2_(same_as_MexCal_S2)
2008   2  1   1      1      1      0.0380 0.0671 0.0747 0.0931 0.1307 0.1581 0.1415 0.1840
```

```
                  0.1901 0.1941 0.1906 #_MexCal_S1_Sem2_(same_as_MexCal_S2)
2009   2  1       1      1      1      0.0237 0.0642 0.0762 0.0800 0.1064 0.1380 0.1743 0.1840
                  0.1901 0.1941 0.1992 #_MexCal_S1_Sem2_(same_as_MexCal_S2)
2010   2  1       1      1      1      0.0534 0.0585 0.0836 0.0818 0.1105 0.1197 0.1427 0.1840
                  0.1901 0.1941 0.1992 #_MexCal_S1_Sem2_(same_as_MexCal_S2)
2011   2  1       1      1      1      0.0237 0.0812 0.0845 0.0967 0.1113 0.1272 0.1381 0.1481
                  0.1901 0.1941 0.1992 #_MexCal_S1_Sem2_(same_as_MexCal_S2)
2012   2  1       1      1      1      0.0237 0.0630 0.0984 0.1141 0.1257 0.1302 0.1387 0.1840
                  0.1901 0.1941 0.1992 #_MexCal_S1_Sem2_(same_as_MexCal_S2)
2013   2  1       1      1      1      0.0214 0.0452 0.1398 0.1365 0.1473 0.1512 0.1723 0.1592
                  0.1901 0.1941 0.1992 #_MexCal_S1_Sem2_(same_as_MexCal_S2)
-2014  2  1       1      1      1      0.0323 0.0577 0.0803 0.1601 0.1690 0.1693 0.1659 0.1840
                  0.1901 0.1941 0.1992 #_MexCal_S1_Sem2_(same_as_MexCal_S2)
1993   1  1       1      1      2      0.0520 0.0724 0.0866 0.1240 0.1488 0.1772 0.1959 0.2205
                  0.2043 0.1866 0.1959 #_MexCal_S2_Sem1_(same_as_MexCal_S1)
1994   1  1       1      1      2      0.0440 0.0723 0.0885 0.0996 0.1317 0.1527 0.1782 0.1959
                  0.2205 0.2043 0.1959 #_MexCal_S2_Sem1_(same_as_MexCal_S1)
1995   1  1       1      1      2      0.0493 0.0628 0.0973 0.0885 0.1238 0.1417 0.1559 0.1793
                  0.1959 0.2205 0.2043 #_MexCal_S2_Sem1_(same_as_MexCal_S1)
1996   1  1       1      1      2      0.0354 0.0835 0.1010 0.1230 0.1588 0.1431 0.1559 0.1706
                  0.1803 0.1959 0.2205 #_MexCal_S2_Sem1_(same_as_MexCal_S1)
1997   1  1       1      1      2      0.0393 0.0616 0.1008 0.1256 0.1406 0.1613 0.1718 0.1706
                  0.1803 0.1866 0.1959 #_MexCal_S2_Sem1_(same_as_MexCal_S1)
1998   1  1       1      1      2      0.0338 0.0496 0.0743 0.1216 0.1322 0.1498 0.1639 0.1724
                  0.1803 0.1866 0.1959 #_MexCal_S2_Sem1_(same_as_MexCal_S1)
1999   1  1       1      1      2      0.0474 0.0498 0.0581 0.0840 0.1476 0.1417 0.1559 0.1706
                  0.1803 0.1866 0.1959 #_MexCal_S2_Sem1_(same_as_MexCal_S1)
2000   1  1       1      1      2      0.0582 0.0808 0.1022 0.0781 0.1053 0.1736 0.1559 0.1706
                  0.1803 0.1866 0.1959 #_MexCal_S2_Sem1_(same_as_MexCal_S1)
2001   1  1       1      1      2      0.0311 0.0820 0.0958 0.1365 0.1535 0.1382 0.1866 0.1706
                  0.1803 0.1866 0.1959 #_MexCal_S2_Sem1_(same_as_MexCal_S1)
2002   1  1       1      1      2      0.0682 0.0807 0.1030 0.1113 0.1441 0.1578 0.1559 0.1866
                  0.1803 0.1866 0.1959 #_MexCal_S2_Sem1_(same_as_MexCal_S1)
2003   1  1       1      1      2      0.0315 0.0744 0.0949 0.1243 0.1422 0.1511 0.1791 0.1706
                  0.1866 0.1866 0.1959 #_MexCal_S2_Sem1_(same_as_MexCal_S1)
2004   1  1       1      1      2      0.0390 0.0576 0.0763 0.1103 0.1347 0.1602 0.1559 0.1706
                  0.1803 0.1866 0.1959 #_MexCal_S2_Sem1_(same_as_MexCal_S1)
2005   1  1       1      1      2      0.0403 0.0445 0.0653 0.0913 0.1516 0.1450 0.1782 0.1706
                  0.1803 0.1866 0.1959 #_MexCal_S2_Sem1_(same_as_MexCal_S1)
2006   1  1       1      1      2      0.0451 0.0518 0.0793 0.0931 0.1240 0.1647 0.1655 0.1860
                  0.1803 0.1866 0.1959 #_MexCal_S2_Sem1_(same_as_MexCal_S1)
2007   1  1       1      1      2      0.0326 0.0619 0.0678 0.1019 0.1274 0.1267 0.1777 0.1860
                  0.1913 0.1866 0.1959 #_MexCal_S2_Sem1_(same_as_MexCal_S1)
2008   1  1       1      1      2      0.0511 0.0716 0.0773 0.0997 0.1356 0.1647 0.1563 0.1860
                  0.1913 0.1947 0.1959 #_MexCal_S2_Sem1_(same_as_MexCal_S1)
2009   1  1       1      1      2      0.0372 0.0739 0.0790 0.0952 0.1065 0.1403 0.1777 0.1860
                  0.1913 0.1947 0.1995 #_MexCal_S2_Sem1_(same_as_MexCal_S1)
2010   1  1       1      1      2      0.0673 0.0715 0.0934 0.1166 0.1258 0.1329 0.1451 0.1860
                  0.1913 0.1947 0.1995 #_MexCal_S2_Sem1_(same_as_MexCal_S1)
2011   1  1       1      1      2      0.0296 0.0898 0.0993 0.1000 0.1205 0.1286 0.1433 0.1512
                  0.1913 0.1947 0.1995 #_MexCal_S2_Sem1_(same_as_MexCal_S1)
2012   1  1       1      1      2      0.0370 0.0833 0.1175 0.1307 0.1385 0.1513 0.1490 0.1860
                  0.1913 0.1947 0.1995 #_MexCal_S2_Sem1_(same_as_MexCal_S1)
2013   1  1       1      1      2      0.0563 0.0773 0.1499 0.1402 0.1489 0.1599 0.1850 0.1694
                  0.1913 0.1947 0.1995 #_MexCal_S2_Sem1_(same_as_MexCal_S1)
-2014  1  1       1      1      2      0.0344 0.0591 0.0833 0.1601 0.1700 0.1721 0.0830 0.1860
                  0.1913 0.1947 0.1995 #_MexCal_S2_Sem1_(same_as_MexCal_S1)
1993   2  1       1      1      2      0.0520 0.0724 0.0866 0.1240 0.1488 0.1772 0.1959 0.2205
                  0.2043 0.1866 0.1959 #_MexCal_S2_Sem2
1994   2  1       1      1      2      0.0440 0.0723 0.0885 0.0996 0.1317 0.1527 0.1782 0.1959
                  0.2205 0.2043 0.1959 #_MexCal_S2_Sem2
1995   2  1       1      1      2      0.0493 0.0628 0.0973 0.0885 0.1238 0.1417 0.1559 0.1793
                  0.1959 0.2205 0.2043 #_MexCal_S2_Sem2
1996   2  1       1      1      2      0.0354 0.0835 0.1010 0.1230 0.1588 0.1431 0.1559 0.1706
                  0.1803 0.1959 0.2205 #_MexCal_S2_Sem2
1997   2  1       1      1      2      0.0393 0.0616 0.1008 0.1256 0.1406 0.1613 0.1718 0.1706
                  0.1803 0.1866 0.1959 #_MexCal_S2_Sem2
1998   2  1       1      1      2      0.0338 0.0496 0.0743 0.1216 0.1322 0.1498 0.1639 0.1724
                  0.1803 0.1866 0.1959 #_MexCal_S2_Sem2
1999   2  1       1      1      2      0.0474 0.0498 0.0581 0.0840 0.1476 0.1417 0.1559 0.1706
                  0.1803 0.1866 0.1959 #_MexCal_S2_Sem2
```

```
2000   2  1   1      1      2      0.0582 0.0808 0.1022 0.0781 0.1053 0.1736 0.1559 0.1706
              0.1803 0.1866 0.1959 #_MexCal_S2_Sem2
2001   2  1   1      1      2      0.0311 0.0820 0.0958 0.1365 0.1535 0.1382 0.1866 0.1706
              0.1803 0.1866 0.1959 #_MexCal_S2_Sem2
2002   2  1   1      1      2      0.0682 0.0807 0.1030 0.1113 0.1441 0.1578 0.1559 0.1866
              0.1803 0.1866 0.1959 #_MexCal_S2_Sem2
2003   2  1   1      1      2      0.0315 0.0744 0.0949 0.1243 0.1422 0.1511 0.1791 0.1706
              0.1866 0.1866 0.1959 #_MexCal_S2_Sem2
2004   2  1   1      1      2      0.0390 0.0576 0.0763 0.1103 0.1347 0.1602 0.1559 0.1706
              0.1803 0.1866 0.1959 #_MexCal_S2_Sem2
2005   2  1   1      1      2      0.0403 0.0445 0.0653 0.0913 0.1516 0.1450 0.1782 0.1706
              0.1803 0.1866 0.1959 #_MexCal_S2_Sem2
2006   2  1   1      1      2      0.0451 0.0518 0.0793 0.0931 0.1240 0.1647 0.1655 0.1860
              0.1803 0.1866 0.1959 #_MexCal_S2_Sem2
2007   2  1   1      1      2      0.0326 0.0619 0.0678 0.1019 0.1274 0.1267 0.1777 0.1860
              0.1913 0.1866 0.1959 #_MexCal_S2_Sem2
2008   2  1   1      1      2      0.0511 0.0716 0.0773 0.0997 0.1356 0.1647 0.1563 0.1860
              0.1913 0.1947 0.1959 #_MexCal_S2_Sem2
2009   2  1   1      1      2      0.0372 0.0739 0.0790 0.0952 0.1065 0.1403 0.1777 0.1860
              0.1913 0.1947 0.1995 #_MexCal_S2_Sem2
2010   2  1   1      1      2      0.0673 0.0715 0.0934 0.1166 0.1258 0.1329 0.1451 0.1860
              0.1913 0.1947 0.1995 #_MexCal_S2_Sem2
2011   2  1   1      1      2      0.0296 0.0898 0.0993 0.1000 0.1205 0.1286 0.1433 0.1512
              0.1913 0.1947 0.1995 #_MexCal_S2_Sem2
2012   2  1   1      1      2      0.0370 0.0833 0.1175 0.1307 0.1385 0.1513 0.1490 0.1860
              0.1913 0.1947 0.1995 #_MexCal_S2_Sem2
2013   2  1   1      1      2      0.0563 0.0773 0.1499 0.1402 0.1489 0.1599 0.1850 0.1694
              0.1913 0.1947 0.1995 #_MexCal_S2_Sem2
-2014  2  1   1      1      2      0.0344 0.0591 0.0833 0.1601 0.1700 0.1721 0.1659 0.1860
              0.1913 0.1947 0.1995 #_MexCal_S2_Sem2
1993   1  1   1      1      3      0.0138 0.0809 0.1067 0.1283 0.1477 0.1638 0.1760 0.1846
              0.1904 0.1943 0.1996 #_PacNW_Sem1
1994   1  1   1      1      3      0.0138 0.0809 0.1067 0.1283 0.1477 0.1638 0.1760 0.1846
              0.1904 0.1943 0.1996 #_PacNW_Sem1
1995   1  1   1      1      3      0.0138 0.0809 0.1067 0.1283 0.1477 0.1638 0.1760 0.1846
              0.1904 0.1943 0.1996 #_PacNW_Sem1
1996   1  1   1      1      3      0.0138 0.0809 0.1067 0.1283 0.1477 0.1638 0.1760 0.1846
              0.1904 0.1943 0.1996 #_PacNW_Sem1
1997   1  1   1      1      3      0.0138 0.0809 0.1067 0.1283 0.1477 0.1638 0.1760 0.1846
              0.1904 0.1943 0.1996 #_PacNW_Sem1
1998   1  1   1      1      3      0.0138 0.0809 0.1067 0.1283 0.1477 0.1638 0.1760 0.1846
              0.1904 0.1943 0.1996 #_PacNW_Sem1
1999   1  1   1      1      3      0.0138 0.0809 0.0869 0.1270 0.1568 0.1826 0.1760 0.1846
              0.1904 0.1943 0.1996 #_PacNW_Sem1
2000   1  1   1      1      3      0.0138 0.1440 0.1193 0.1530 0.1685 0.1798 0.1883 0.1957
              0.2040 0.1943 0.1996 #_PacNW_Sem1
2001   1  1   1      1      3      0.0138 0.0735 0.1403 0.1480 0.1570 0.1741 0.1902 0.1862
              0.1982 0.1943 0.1996 #_PacNW_Sem1
2002   1  1   1      1      3      0.0138 0.1256 0.1505 0.1714 0.1782 0.1881 0.2005 0.2089
              0.2151 0.1943 0.1996 #_PacNW_Sem1
2003   1  1   1      1      3      0.0138 0.1094 0.1236 0.1386 0.1670 0.1855 0.1933 0.1973
              0.2124 0.1943 0.1996 #_PacNW_Sem1
2004   1  1   1      1      3      0.0138 0.0734 0.1235 0.1547 0.1834 0.1998 0.2063 0.2105
              0.2151 0.1943 0.1996 #_PacNW_Sem1
2005   1  1   1      1      3      0.0138 0.0747 0.0864 0.0938 0.1229 0.1655 0.1816 0.2058
              0.2067 0.1943 0.1996 #_PacNW_Sem1
2006   1  1   1      1      3      0.0138 0.0809 0.1080 0.1176 0.1247 0.1355 0.1397 0.1959
              0.1762 0.1943 0.1996 #_PacNW_Sem1
2007   1  1   1      1      3      0.0138 0.0809 0.0977 0.1050 0.1093 0.1163 0.1269 0.1324
              0.1980 0.1943 0.1996 #_PacNW_Sem1
2008   1  1   1      1      3      0.0138 0.0809 0.1050 0.1116 0.1202 0.1264 0.1392 0.1522
              0.1718 0.1943 0.1996 #_PacNW_Sem1
2009   1  1   1      1      3      0.0138 0.0405 0.1095 0.1108 0.1194 0.1267 0.1304 0.1359
              0.1436 0.1943 0.1996 #_PacNW_Sem1
2010   1  1   1      1      3      0.0138 0.0632 0.0673 0.1156 0.1328 0.1341 0.1380 0.1379
              0.1399 0.1943 0.1996 #_PacNW_Sem1
2011   1  1   1      1      3      0.0138 0.0853 0.1127 0.1386 0.1505 0.1565 0.1580 0.1609
              0.1575 0.1943 0.1996 #_PacNW_Sem1
2012   1  1   1      1      3      0.0138 0.1250 0.1334 0.1421 0.1536 0.1671 0.1733 0.1737
              0.1790 0.1943 0.1996 #_PacNW_Sem1
2013   1  1   1      1      3      0.0138 0.0809 0.1621 0.1670 0.1728 0.1795 0.1949 0.1980
```

```
                  0.1994  0.1943  0.1996  #_PacNW_Sem1
-2014   1  1      1       1       3       0.0138  0.0809  0.1067  0.1730  0.1805  0.1838  0.1846  0.1915
                  0.1961  0.1943  0.1996  #_PacNW_Sem1
1993    2  1      1       1       3       0.0396  0.0947  0.1178  0.1383  0.1562  0.1704  0.1807  0.1878
                  0.1926  0.1957  0.2000  #_PacNW_Sem2
1994    2  1      1       1       3       0.0396  0.0947  0.1178  0.1383  0.1562  0.1704  0.1807  0.1878
                  0.1926  0.1957  0.2000  #_PacNW_Sem2
1995    2  1      1       1       3       0.0396  0.0947  0.1178  0.1383  0.1562  0.1704  0.1807  0.1878
                  0.1926  0.1957  0.2000  #_PacNW_Sem2
1996    2  1      1       1       3       0.0396  0.0947  0.1178  0.1383  0.1562  0.1704  0.1807  0.1878
                  0.1926  0.1957  0.2000  #_PacNW_Sem2
1997    2  1      1       1       3       0.0396  0.0947  0.1178  0.1383  0.1562  0.1704  0.1807  0.1878
                  0.1926  0.1957  0.2000  #_PacNW_Sem2
1998    2  1      1       1       3       0.0396  0.0947  0.1178  0.1383  0.1562  0.1704  0.1807  0.1878
                  0.1926  0.1957  0.2000  #_PacNW_Sem2
1999    2  1      1       1       3       0.0396  0.1001  0.1199  0.1478  0.1683  0.1855  0.1807  0.1878
                  0.1926  0.1957  0.2000  #_PacNW_Sem2
2000    2  1      1       1       3       0.0396  0.1422  0.1336  0.1550  0.1713  0.1850  0.1873  0.1969
                  0.1991  0.1957  0.2000  #_PacNW_Sem2
2001    2  1      1       1       3       0.0396  0.1120  0.1559  0.1631  0.1725  0.1873  0.1996  0.2007
                  0.1962  0.1957  0.2000  #_PacNW_Sem2
2002    2  1      1       1       3       0.0396  0.1246  0.1446  0.1692  0.1819  0.1907  0.1989  0.2107
                  0.2047  0.1957  0.2000  #_PacNW_Sem2
2003    2  1      1       1       3       0.0396  0.1165  0.1392  0.1610  0.1834  0.1959  0.2019  0.2062
                  0.2034  0.1957  0.2000  #_PacNW_Sem2
2004    2  1      1       1       3       0.0396  0.0799  0.1086  0.1388  0.1745  0.1907  0.2060  0.2086
                  0.2047  0.1957  0.2000  #_PacNW_Sem2
2005    2  1      1       1       3       0.0396  0.0913  0.1020  0.1092  0.1292  0.1526  0.1887  0.1910
                  0.2005  0.1957  0.2000  #_PacNW_Sem2
2006    2  1      1       1       3       0.0396  0.0893  0.1065  0.1135  0.1205  0.1312  0.1361  0.1969
                  0.1853  0.1957  0.2000  #_PacNW_Sem2
2007    2  1      1       1       3       0.0396  0.0930  0.1046  0.1126  0.1178  0.1278  0.1395  0.1521
                  0.1961  0.1957  0.2000  #_PacNW_Sem2
2008    2  1      1       1       3       0.0396  0.0952  0.1079  0.1155  0.1234  0.1284  0.1376  0.1479
                  0.1830  0.1957  0.2000  #_PacNW_Sem2
2009    2  1      1       1       3       0.0396  0.0539  0.1126  0.1218  0.1268  0.1323  0.1341  0.1379
                  0.1689  0.1957  0.2000  #_PacNW_Sem2
2010    2  1      1       1       3       0.0396  0.0879  0.1029  0.1331  0.1447  0.1461  0.1495  0.1477
                  0.1671  0.1957  0.2000  #_PacNW_Sem2
2011    2  1      1       1       3       0.0396  0.1094  0.1274  0.1461  0.1588  0.1649  0.1659  0.1699
                  0.1759  0.1957  0.2000  #_PacNW_Sem2
2012    2  1      1       1       3       0.0396  0.1435  0.1502  0.1574  0.1666  0.1810  0.1857  0.1866
                  0.1866  0.1957  0.2000  #_PacNW_Sem2
2013    2  1      1       1       3       0.0396  0.0947  0.1675  0.1738  0.1783  0.1821  0.1932  0.1971
                  0.1968  0.1957  0.2000  #_PacNW_Sem2
-2014   2  1      1       1       3       0.0396  0.0947  0.1178  0.1747  0.1819  0.1851  0.1862  0.1922
                  0.1952  0.1957  0.2000  #_PacNW_Sem2
1993    1  1      1       1       5       0.0125  0.0461  0.0839  0.1173  0.1434  0.1622  0.1754  0.1843
                  0.1903  0.1942  0.1995  #_ATM_Survey_Sem1
1994    1  1      1       1       5       0.0125  0.0461  0.0839  0.1173  0.1434  0.1622  0.1754  0.1843
                  0.1903  0.1942  0.1995  #_ATM_Survey_Sem1
1995    1  1      1       1       5       0.0125  0.0461  0.0839  0.1173  0.1434  0.1622  0.1754  0.1843
                  0.1903  0.1942  0.1995  #_ATM_Survey_Sem1
1996    1  1      1       1       5       0.0125  0.0461  0.0839  0.1173  0.1434  0.1622  0.1754  0.1843
                  0.1903  0.1942  0.1995  #_ATM_Survey_Sem1
1997    1  1      1       1       5       0.0125  0.0461  0.0839  0.1173  0.1434  0.1622  0.1754  0.1843
                  0.1903  0.1942  0.1995  #_ATM_Survey_Sem1
1998    1  1      1       1       5       0.0125  0.0461  0.0839  0.1173  0.1434  0.1622  0.1754  0.1843
                  0.1903  0.1942  0.1995  #_ATM_Survey_Sem1
1999    1  1      1       1       5       0.0125  0.0461  0.0839  0.1173  0.1434  0.1622  0.1754  0.1843
                  0.1903  0.1942  0.1995  #_ATM_Survey_Sem1
2000    1  1      1       1       5       0.0125  0.0461  0.0839  0.1173  0.1434  0.1622  0.1754  0.1843
                  0.1903  0.1942  0.1995  #_ATM_Survey_Sem1
2001    1  1      1       1       5       0.0125  0.0461  0.0839  0.1173  0.1434  0.1622  0.1754  0.1843
                  0.1903  0.1942  0.1995  #_ATM_Survey_Sem1
2002    1  1      1       1       5       0.0125  0.0461  0.0839  0.1173  0.1434  0.1622  0.1754  0.1843
                  0.1903  0.1942  0.1995  #_ATM_Survey_Sem1
2003    1  1      1       1       5       0.0125  0.0461  0.0839  0.1173  0.1434  0.1622  0.1754  0.1843
                  0.1903  0.1942  0.1995  #_ATM_Survey_Sem1
2004    1  1      1       1       5       0.0125  0.0688  0.1243  0.1380  0.1640  0.1737  0.1850  0.1914
                  0.1921  0.1942  0.1995  #_ATM_Survey_Sem1
```

```
2005    1  1    1       1       5       0.0125 0.0445 0.0734 0.1278 0.1443 0.1676 0.1778 0.1920
                0.2003 0.1942 0.1995 #_ATM_Survey_Sem1
2006    1  1    1       1       5       0.0125 0.0563 0.0750 0.0817 0.1313 0.1506 0.1754 0.1843
                0.1923 0.2003 0.1995 #_ATM_Survey_Sem1
2007    1  1    1       1       5       0.0125 0.0451 0.0705 0.0969 0.0996 0.1348 0.1569 0.1843
                0.1903 0.1942 0.2003 #_ATM_Survey_Sem1
2008    1  1    1       1       5       0.0134 0.0461 0.1040 0.1153 0.1181 0.1221 0.1383 0.1843
                0.1903 0.1942 0.1995 #_ATM_Survey_Sem1
2009    1  1    1       1       5       0.0125 0.0446 0.0890 0.1182 0.1257 0.1264 0.1368 0.1547
                0.1903 0.1942 0.1995 #_ATM_Survey_Sem1
2010    1  1    1       1       5       0.0125 0.0480 0.0708 0.1088 0.1348 0.1368 0.1402 0.1463
                0.1903 0.1942 0.1995 #_ATM_Survey_Sem1
2011    1  1    1       1       5       0.0131 0.0720 0.1101 0.1179 0.1224 0.1369 0.1419 0.1389
                0.1440 0.1410 0.1410 #_ATM_Survey_Sem1
2012    1  1    1       1       5       0.1071 0.1152 0.1220 0.1265 0.1302 0.1496 0.1581 0.1528
                0.1615 0.1564 0.1564 #_ATM_Survey_Sem1
2013    1  1    1       1       5       0.1358 0.1449 0.1513 0.1548 0.1574 0.1689 0.1740 0.1708
                0.1761 0.1730 0.1730 #_ATM_Survey_Sem1
2014    1  1    1       1       5       0.0061 0.1694 0.1768 0.1794 0.1812 0.1885 0.1916 0.1897
                0.1930 0.1910 0.1910 #_ATM_Survey_Sem1
2015    1  1    1       1       5       0.0036 0.0329 0.1741 0.1874 0.1937 0.2066 0.2095 0.2078
                0.2105 0.2089 0.2089 #_ATM_Survey_Sem1
-2016   1  1    1       1       5       0.0108 0.0658 0.0740 0.0784 0.0827 0.1536 0.1951 0.1713
                0.2065 0.1883 0.1883 #_ATM_Survey_Sem1
1993    2  1    1       1       5       0.0283 0.0651 0.1015 0.1313 0.1536 0.1694 0.1803 0.1876
                0.1924 0.1956 0.1999 #_ATM_Survey_Sem2
1994    2  1    1       1       5       0.0283 0.0651 0.1015 0.1313 0.1536 0.1694 0.1803 0.1876
                0.1924 0.1956 0.1999 #_ATM_Survey_Sem2
1995    2  1    1       1       5       0.0283 0.0651 0.1015 0.1313 0.1536 0.1694 0.1803 0.1876
                0.1924 0.1956 0.1999 #_ATM_Survey_Sem2
1996    2  1    1       1       5       0.0283 0.0651 0.1015 0.1313 0.1536 0.1694 0.1803 0.1876
                0.1924 0.1956 0.1999 #_ATM_Survey_Sem2
1997    2  1    1       1       5       0.0283 0.0651 0.1015 0.1313 0.1536 0.1694 0.1803 0.1876
                0.1924 0.1956 0.1999 #_ATM_Survey_Sem2
1998    2  1    1       1       5       0.0283 0.0651 0.1015 0.1313 0.1536 0.1694 0.1803 0.1876
                0.1924 0.1956 0.1999 #_ATM_Survey_Sem2
1999    2  1    1       1       5       0.0283 0.0651 0.1015 0.1313 0.1536 0.1694 0.1803 0.1876
                0.1924 0.1956 0.1999 #_ATM_Survey_Sem2
2000    2  1    1       1       5       0.0283 0.0651 0.1015 0.1313 0.1536 0.1694 0.1803 0.1876
                0.1924 0.1956 0.1999 #_ATM_Survey_Sem2
2001    2  1    1       1       5       0.0283 0.0651 0.1015 0.1313 0.1536 0.1694 0.1803 0.1876
                0.1924 0.1956 0.1999 #_ATM_Survey_Sem2
2002    2  1    1       1       5       0.0283 0.0651 0.1015 0.1313 0.1536 0.1694 0.1803 0.1876
                0.1924 0.1956 0.1999 #_ATM_Survey_Sem2
2003    2  1    1       1       5       0.0665 0.1150 0.1349 0.1622 0.1729 0.1781 0.1825 0.1917
                0.1924 0.1956 0.1999 #_ATM_Survey_Sem2
2004    2  1    1       1       5       0.0250 0.0711 0.1261 0.1411 0.1658 0.1745 0.1919 0.2003
                0.1924 0.1956 0.1999 #_ATM_Survey_Sem2
2005    2  1    1       1       5       0.0584 0.0677 0.0756 0.0899 0.1063 0.1281 0.1616 0.1998
                0.1952 0.1709 0.1709 #_ATM_Survey_Sem2
2006    2  1    1       1       5       0.0584 0.0677 0.0756 0.0899 0.1063 0.1281 0.1616 0.1998
                0.1952 0.1709 0.1709 #_ATM_Survey_Sem2
2007    2  1    1       1       5       0.0702 0.0806 0.0920 0.1128 0.1279 0.1369 0.1451 0.1542
                0.1529 0.1471 0.1471 #_ATM_Survey_Sem2
2008    2  1    1       1       5       0.0702 0.0806 0.0920 0.1128 0.1279 0.1369 0.1451 0.1542
                0.1529 0.1471 0.1471 #_ATM_Survey_Sem2
2009    2  1    1       1       5       0.0399 0.0884 0.1197 0.1381 0.1467 0.1524 0.1579 0.1642
                0.1633 0.1593 0.1593 #_ATM_Survey_Sem2
2010    2  1    1       1       5       0.0609 0.0644 0.0684 0.0851 0.1228 0.1485 0.1635 0.1745
                0.1731 0.1663 0.1663 #_ATM_Survey_Sem2
2011    2  1    1       1       5       0.0792 0.1016 0.1154 0.1364 0.1554 0.1669 0.1755 0.1827
                0.1818 0.1773 0.1773 #_ATM_Survey_Sem2
2012    2  1    1       1       5       0.1141 0.1239 0.1294 0.1386 0.1489 0.1585 0.1694 0.1830
                0.1811 0.1724 0.1724 #_ATM_Survey_Sem2
2013    2  1    1       1       5       0.1556 0.1593 0.1619 0.1664 0.1707 0.1742 0.1778 0.1819
                0.1813 0.1787 0.1787 #_ATM_Survey_Sem2
2014    2  1    1       1       5       0.0914 0.0984 0.1055 0.1438 0.1829 0.1955 0.2015 0.2058
                0.2052 0.2026 0.2026 #_ATM_Survey_Sem2
-2015   2  1    1       1       5       0.0359 0.0424 0.0638 0.1338 0.1855 0.2045 0.2137 0.2196
                0.2189 0.2153 0.2153 #_ATM_Survey_Sem2
```

ALT_19.CTL

```
# Pacific sardine stock assessment update for 2019-20 mgmt
# K.T. Hill, P.R. Crone, J.P. Zwolinski (Feb 2019)
# Model ALT
# SS model (ver. 3.24aa)
# Control file
#
1 #_N_growth patterns
1 # N_Morphs within growth pattern
# Cond 1 # Morph between/within SD ratio (no read if N_morphs=1)
# Cond 1 # Vector morphdist (-1 for first value gives normal approximation)
1 # N_recruitment assignments (overrides GP*area*season parameter values)
0 # Recruitment interaction requested
# GP season area for each recruitment assignment
1 1 1
# Cond 0 # N_movement_definitions goes here if N_areas >1
# Cond 1 # First age that moves (real age at begin of season, not integer) also conditioned on
          Do_migration >0
# Cond 1 1 1 2 4 10 # Example move definition for seas=1, morph=1, source=1 dest=2, age1=4, age2=10
0 # N_block patterns
# N_blocks per pattern
# Begin and end years of blocks (pattern 1)
0.5 # Fraction female
0 # Natural mortality type: 0=1 Parm, 1=N_breakpoints, 2=Lorenzen, 3=agespecific, 4=age-specific
          with season interpolation
# No additional input for M_type=0 (read 1 parametr per morph)
1 # Growth model: 1=vonBert with L1&L2, 2=Richards with L1&L2, 3=age_speciific_K, 4=not implemented
0.5 # Growth_age for_L1
999 #_Growth_age for_L2 (999=use Linf)
0 # SD add to LAA (set to 0.1 for SS2 V1.x compatibility)
0 # CV_growth pattern: (0) CV=f(LAA), (1) CV=F(A), (2) SD=F(LAA), (3) SD=F(A), (4) log(SD)=F(A)
5 # Maturity_option: 1=length logistic, 2=age logistic, 3=read age-maturity matrix by growth
          pattern, 4=read age-fecundity, 5=read fecundity/wt from wtatage.ss
# Placeholder for empirical age-maturity by growth pattern
0 # First mature age
1 # Fecundity option:(1) eggs=Wt*(a+b*Wt),(2) eggs=a*L^b,(3) eggs=a*Wt^b, (4) eggs=a+b*L,
          (5)eggs=a+b*W
0 # Hermaphroditism option: 0=none, 1=age-specific
1 # Parameter offset approach: 1=none, 2=Mortality, growth, CV_growth as offset from female-GP1,
          3=like SS2 V1.x
1 # Env/block/dev adjust method: 1=standard, 2=logistic transform keeps in base parm bounds,
          3=standard w/ no bound check
# Growth parameters
# LO HI INIT PRIOR PR_type SD PHASE env-var use_dev dev_minyr dev_maxyr dev_stddev block block_Fxn
0.3 0.8 0.6 0 -1 99 -3 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 # NatM_p_1_Fem_GP_1
3 15 10 0 -1 99 -3 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 # LAA_min_Fem_GP_1
20 30 25 0 -1 99 -3 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 # LAA_max_Fem_GP_1
0.05 0.99 0.4 0 -1 99 -3 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 # VonBert_K_Fem_GP_1
0.05 0.5 0.14 0 -1 99 -3 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 # CV_young_Fem_GP_1
0.01 0.1 0.05 0 -1 99 -3 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 # CV_old_Fem_GP_1
-3 3 7.5242e-006 0 -1 99 -3 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 # WtLt_1_Fem
-3 5 3.233205 0 -1 99 -3 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 # WtLt_2_Fem
9 19 15.44 0 -1 99 -3 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 # Mat50%_Fem
-20 3 -0.89252 0 -1 99 -3 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 # Mat_slope_Fem
0 10 1 0 -1 99 -3 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 # Eggs/kg_inter_Fem
-1 5 0 0 -1 99 -3 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 # Eggs/kg_slope_wt_Fem
-4 4 0 0 -1 99 -3 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 # RecrDist_GP_1
-4 4 1 0 -1 99 -3 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 # RecrDist_Area_1
-4 4 1 0 -1 99 -3 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 # RecrDist_Seas_1
-4 4 0 0 -1 99 -3 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 # RecrDist_Seas_2
1 1 1 0 -1 99 -3 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 # Cohort Growth_Dev
#
# Cond 0  # Custom MG-env_setup (0/1)
# Cond -2 2 0 0 -1 99 -2 # Placeholder when no MG-env parameters
# Custom MG-block_setup (0/1)
# Cond No MG parm trends
# Seasonal effects on biology parameter
0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 # femwtlt1, femwtlt2, mat1, mat2, fec1, fec2, malewtlt1, malewtlt2, L1, K
# Cond -2 2 0 0 -1 99 -2 # Placeholder when no seasonal MG parameters
# Cond -4 # MGparm_dev Phase
#
```

```
# Spawner-recruit (SR) parameters
3 # SR function: 1=Null, 2=Ricker (2 parm), 3=std_B-H (2 parm), 4=S-CAA, 5=Hockey stick, 6=flat-top_B-H, 7=Survival_3Parm
# LO HI INIT PRIOR PR_type SD PHASE
3 25 15 0 -1 99 1 # SR_R0
0.2 1 0.5 0 -1 99 5 # SR_steepness
0 2 0.75 0 -1 99 -3 # SR_sigmaR
-5 5 0 0 -1 99 -3 # SR_env link
-15 15 0 0 -1 99 2 # SR_R1_offset
0 0 0 0 -1 99 -3 # SR_autocorr
0 # SR_env link
0 # SR_env target: 0=none, 1=devs, 2=R0, 3=steepness
1 # Do recdev:  0=none, 1=devvector, 2=simple deviations
2005 # First year of main rec_devs (early devs can preceed this era)
2017 # Last year of main rec_devs (forecast devs start in following year) (was 2016 in 2018 assessment)
1 # Rec_dev phase
#
1 # Read 13 advanced options (0/1)
-6 # Rec_dev early start: 0=none (neg value makes relative to rec_dev)
2 # Rec_dev early phase
0 # Forecast rec phase (includes late rec): 0 value sets to maxphase+1
1 # Lambda for Forecast rec likelihood occurring before endyr+1
#
1994.5 # Last early_yr nobias adjustment in MPD (was 1994.7 in 2018)
2005.0 # First yr fullbias adjustment in_MPD (was 2005.3 in 2018)
2015.0 # Last yr fullbias adjustment in MPD (was 2013.8 in 2018)
2017.5 # First recent_yr nobias adjustment in MPD (was 2016.7 in 2018)
0.8676 # Max bias adjustment in_MPD (was 0.8997 in 2018) (-1 to override ramp and set bias adjustment=1.0 for all estimated rec_devs)
0 # Period of cycles in recruitment (N_parms read below)
-5 # Min rec_dev
5 # Max rec_dev
0 # Read rec_devs
# End of advanced SR options
#
# Placeholder for full parameter lines for recruitment cycles
# Read specified rec_devs
# Yr Input_value
#
# Fishing mortality (F) parameters
0.1 # F ballpark for tuning early phases
-2006 # F ballpark year (neg value to disable)
3 # F method: 1=Pope, 2=instant F, 3=hybrid
4 # Max F or harvest rate (depends on F method)
# No additional F input needed for F method 1
# If F method=2 then read overall start F value, overall phase, N_detailed inputs to read
# If F method=3 then read N_iterations for tuning for F method=3
10 # N_iterations for tuning F (F method=3 only, e.g., 3-7)
#
# Initial F parameters
# LO HI INIT PRIOR PR_type SD PHASE
0 3 1 0 -1 99 1  # Init F_MexCal_S1
0 3 0 0 -1 99 -1 # Init F_MexCal_S2
0 3 0 0 -1 99 -1 # Init F_PNW
#
# Catchability (Q) parameters
# Den_dep: 0=off and survey is proportional to abundance, 1=add parameter for non-linearity
# Env_var: 0=off, 1 = add parameter for env effect on Q
# Extra_SE: 0=off, 1 = add parameter for additive constant to input SE in ln space
# Q_type: <0=mirror, 0=median_float, 1=mean_float, 2=estimate parameter for ln(Q), 3=parameter with random_dev, 4=parameter with random walk, 5=mean unbiased float assigned to parameter
#         <0=mirror
#         0=Q floats as a scaling factor (no variance bias adjustment is taken into account)
#         1=Q floats as scaling factor (variance bias adjustment is used) ** recommended option **
#          2=Q is a parameter (variance bias adjustment is NOT used, so produces same result as option=0)
#         3=parameter with random_dev
#         4=parameter with random walk
#         5=mean unbiased float assigned to parameter
# Note: a new option will be created to include bias adjustment in the parameter approach
```

```
# Den-dep  Env-var  Extra_SE  Q_type
0 0 0 0 # MexCal_S1
0 0 0 0 # MexCal_S2
0 0 0 0 # PNW
0 0 0 2 # AT
#
# Cond # If Q has random component then 0=read one parameter for each fleet with random Q, 1=read
          a parameter for each year of index
# Q parameters (if any)
# LO HI INIT PRIOR PR_type SD PHASE
-3 3 1 0 -1 99 4 # Q_AT
#
# Size selectivity types
# Pattern Discard Male Special
0 0 0 0 # MexCal_S1
0 0 0 0 # MexCal_S2
0 0 0 0 # PNW
0 0 0 0 # ATM
#
# Age selectivity types
# Pattern Discard Male Special
17 0 0 10 # MexCal_S1
17 0 0 10 # MexCal_S2
12 0 0 0 # PNW
10 0 0 0 # AT
#
# Age selectivity
# LO HI INIT PRIOR PR_type SD PHASE env-var use_dev dev_minyr dev_maxyr dev_stddev Block Block_Fxn
# MexCal_S1 (age-specific, random walk)
-5    9        0.1    -1      -1      99   3  0 0 0 0 0 0 0 # Age-0
-5    9        0.1    -1      -1      99   3  0 0 0 0 0 0 0 # Age-1
-5    9        0.1    -1      -1      99   3  0 0 0 0 0 0 0 # Age-2
-5    9        0.1    -1      -1      99   3  0 0 0 0 0 0 0 # Age-3
-5    9        0.1    -1      -1      99   3  0 0 0 0 0 0 0 # Age-4
-5    9        0.1    -1      -1      99   3  0 0 0 0 0 0 0 # Age-5
-5    9        0.1    -1      -1      99   3  0 0 0 0 0 0 0 # Age-6
-5    9        0.1    -1      -1      99   3  0 0 0 0 0 0 0 # Age-7
-5    9        0.1    -1      -1      99   3  0 0 0 0 0 0 0 # Age-8
-1000 9        -1000  -1      -1      99   -3  0 0 0 0 0 0 0 # Age-9
-1000 9        -1000  -1      -1      99   -3  0 0 0 0 0 0 0 # Age-10
#
# MexCal_S2 (age-specific, random walk)
-5    9        0.1    -1      -1      99   3  0 0 0 0 0 0 0 # Age-0
-5    9        0.1    -1      -1      99   3  0 0 0 0 0 0 0 # Age-1
-5    9        0.1    -1      -1      99   3  0 0 0 0 0 0 0 # Age-2
-5    9        0.1    -1      -1      99   3  0 0 0 0 0 0 0 # Age-3
-5    9        0.1    -1      -1      99   3  0 0 0 0 0 0 0 # Age-4
-5    9        0.1    -1      -1      99   3  0 0 0 0 0 0 0 # Age-5
-5    9        0.1    -1      -1      99   3  0 0 0 0 0 0 0 # Age-6
-5    9        0.1    -1      -1      99   3  0 0 0 0 0 0 0 # Age-7
-5    9        0.1    -1      -1      99   3  0 0 0 0 0 0 0 # Age-8
-1000 9        -1000  -1      -1      99   -3  0 0 0 0 0 0 0 # Age-9
-1000 9        -1000  -1      -1      99   -3  0 0 0 0 0 0 0 # Age-10
#
# PacNW (asymptotic)
0 10 5 0 -1 99 4 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 # AgeSel_P1_PacNW
-5 15 1 0 -1 99 4 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 # AgeSel_P2_PacNW
#
# Tag loss and Tag reporting parameters
0 # Tag custom:  0=no read, 1=read if tags exist
# Cond -6 6 1 1 2 0.01 -4 0 0 0 0 0 0 0  # Placeholder if no parameters
#
1 # Variance adjustments
# Fleet/Survey: 1 2 3 4 5
0.000000  0.000000    0.000000       0.000000 # add_to_survey_CV
0.000000  0.000000    0.000000       0.000000 # add_to_discard_stddev
0.000000  0.000000    0.000000       0.000000 # add_to_bodywt_CV
1.000000    1.000000    1.000000    1.000000 # mult_by_lencomp_N
1.000000    1.000000    1.000000    1.000000 # mult_by_agecomp_N
1.000000    1.000000    1.000000    1.000000 # mult_by_size-at-age_N
#
```

```
1 # Max lambda phase
1 # SD_offset
#
9 # Number of changes to make to default Lambdas (default value=1)
#  Like_comp  codes:  1=survey,  2=discard,  3=mean_wt,  4=length,  5=age,  6=size-freq,  7=size_age,
          8=catch,
#                  9=initial equilibrium catch, 10=rec_dev, 11=parameter_prior, 12=parameter_dev,
#                  13=crash penalty, 14=morph composition; 15=tag composition, 16=tag neg_bin
# Like_comp fleet/survey  phase  value  size-freq_method
1 4 1 1 1 # ATM
4 4 1 0 1 # ATM (length)
5 1 1 1 1  # MexCal_S1 (age)
5 2 1 1 1  # MexCal_S2 (age)
5 3 1 1 1  # PNW (age)
5 4 1 1 1 # ATM (age)
9 1 1 0 1 # Initial equilibrium catch (MexCal_S1)
9 2 1 0 1 # Initial equilibrium catch (MexCal_S2)
9 3 1 0 1 # Initial equilibrium catch (PNW)
#
0 # Read specs for more SD reporting (0/1)
# 0 1 -1 5 1 5 1 -1 5 # Placeholder for selectivity type, lt/age, year, N_selectivity bins, growth
          pattern, N_growth ages, natage_area (-1 for all), natage_yr, N_natages
# Placeholder for vector of selectivity bins to be reported
# Placeholder for vector of growth ages to be reported
# Placeholder for vector of natage ages to be reported
999 # End of file
```

Appendix B.

PFMC scientific peer review, advisory body reports, and management measures

Agenda Item E.3.a
Supplemental SSC Report 1
April 2019

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE REPORT ON PACIFIC SARDINE ASSESSMENT, HARVEST SPECIFICATIONS, AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES – FINAL ACTION

Dr. Kevin Hill (SWFSC) presented the 2019 sardine update assessment (Agenda Item E.3, Supplemental REVISED Attachment 1) to the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC). As with the 2017 full assessment (Agenda Item G.5.a, Stock Assessment Report, April 2017) and the 2018 update assessment (Agenda Item C.5, Attachment 1, April 2018), the Stock Assessment Team (STAT) provided a model-based (ALT) and an acoustic-trawl survey-based (AT) assessment approach in the 2019 update assessment document. The ALT assessment model was the approach used in the 2017 full assessment and the 2018 update assessment to inform management, and therefore the 2019 update of the ALT approach was evaluated for use to inform management for the upcoming fishing year (2019/20). The SSC Coastal Pelagic Species Subcommittee (CPSSC) reviewed a draft of the 2019 update assessment on March 28, 2019 (report appended). The CPSSC and the SSC review focused on two main questions:

1. Does the assessment meet the criteria of a stock assessment update?
2. Can the results of the update assessment form the basis of Council decision-making?

The SSC agreed that the 2019 update to the sardine assessment satisfies the Terms of Reference for Update Assessments. The results are consistent with the previous assessment given the new data, and hence represent the best available science for management of the northern subpopulation of Pacific sardine.

The projected stock biomass for the 2019/20 management period is 27,547 mt for July 2019, which is below the minimum stock size threshold (MSST) of 50,000 mt. As in 2018, the update assessment is designated as a category 2d assessment, for 2019 this would be associated with a sigma of 1.0 for calculating the acceptable biological catch (ABC) buffer. This assignment was due to the following major uncertainties:

- recent recruitment estimates show a strong retrospective pattern, although this is reflective of new data updating estimates of recruitment based on the stock- recruitment relationship in the presence of declining (and below average) recruitment;
- the most recent recruitment is taken from the stock-recruitment curve rather than being estimated;
- the population age structure is particularly uncertain because a large proportion of the estimated population is composed of recent recruits; and
- the lack of recent fishery age composition data now spanning four years.

The SSC endorses the 2019/20 Pacific sardine overfishing limit (OFL) of 5,816 mt, which is shown in Table 15 of the assessment document. The 2020 assessment will be a full assessment, and the SSC provided the STAT with suggestions for its development.

SSC CPS Subcommittee Report to the SSC on the 2019 Assessment of the Northern Subpopulation of Pacific Sardine

General

Drs. Kevin Hill (SWFSC), Paul Crone (SWFSC), and Juan Zwolinski (UCSC) presented the 2019 update assessment of the Northern Subpopulation (NSP) of Pacific Sardine to the SSC CPS subcommittee on March 28, 2019, via webinar. As with the 2017 full assessment (Agenda Item G.5.a, Stock Assessment Report, April 2017) and the 2018 update assessment (Agenda Item C.5, Attachment 1, Stock Assessment Report, April 2018), the STAT provided a model-based (ALT) and an acoustic-trawl survey-based (AT) assessment approach in the 2019 update assessment document. The ALT assessment model was the approach used in the 2017 full assessment to inform management, and therefore the update of the ALT approach was evaluated for use to inform management for the upcoming fishing year (2019-20). The SSC CPS subcommittee expresses appreciation to the STAT for a complete and well- documented update assessment.

New data included in the 2019 update proposed by the STAT include: 1) updated landings data for 2017, with preliminary landings data for model year 2018 (which includes catch data for the second half of calendar year 2018); and 2) a corrected ATM biomass index and associated age composition for summer 2017 and a new ATM biomass index and associated age composition from the summer 2018 survey. There was no spring survey (or associated spring abundance estimate) for sardine during 2018. The methodology used to calculate acoustic-trawl survey biomass in 2018 was the same as in the 2017 full assessment. The 2017 summer ATM biomass index originally was calculated without restriction to the depth range where sardine were present. This error was discovered after the completion of the 2018 update assessment and its use for management, and did not occur with any other survey analyses.

There were no fishery age-composition data for 2017 or 2018 in the update assessment because no directed fishery took place in those years, and the composition data from the live bait fishery or from CPS fisheries with incidental take of sardine sampled by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) were not included in the 2017 full assessment and thus including them within an update assessment would not be within the Terms of Reference.

Changes to model structure were within the Terms of Reference for update assessments, and included estimating one additional recruitment deviation and updating the recruitment bias ramp, both as a direct result of the additional year of data. The habitat model was also re-run to partition total 2018 landings to the northern subpopulation.

Total catch has generally been low in recent years, with the exception of relatively large estimated catches (~10,000 mt per year in 2017 and 2018) of NSP sardine off Mexico. This catch is partitioned from catches of SSP sardine using the environment-based approach described by Demer and Zwolinski (2014), from the Ensenada portion of the MexCal fleet during early 2017 and 2018. The corrected 2017 ATM survey biomass index was 24,349 mt (CV = 0.37, SE(ln(index)) = 0.36), while the summer 2018 ATM survey produced a biomass index of 35,501 mt (CV = 0.73, SE(ln(index)) = 0.65). Projected age-1+ stock biomass for the 2019/20 management period is 27,547 mt for July 2019, with an estimated CV of 0.617 (σ=0.57; based on estimated spawning stock biomass).

Recruitment

Retrospective patterns in estimated annual recruitment deviations continue to be apparent in the 2019 update assessment, as observed in previous sardine assessments, with recruitment proving to have been overestimated based on subsequent information. However, there is a larger pattern in the model estimated recruitment deviations, showing eight years of positive recruitment deviations followed by seven years of negative (or zero) deviations. This is more indicative of climate regimes or some other driver in recruitment rather than systematic retrospective patterns within the assessment. During the forecast period (2019-20), recruitment was taken from the stock-recruitment relationship. The SSC supports this approach, noting that the retrospective pattern can be attributed to the model estimate of recruitment for the last year being updated given additional data; the first estimate of a recruitment is based on very little data.

Sensitivity analyses and areas for exploration during the 2020 benchmark assessment The SSC CPSSC requested two additional model runs to inform on the potential magnitude of sensitivity in assessment outcomes associated with some of the key uncertainties. Other issues that should be examined during the 2020 benchmark assessment are listed in the notes.

1. Catchability
   AT survey catchability (*q*) is estimated to be 1.17 in the 2019 update assessment (up from 1.15 in the 2018 assessment update). Although there are various factors, including acoustic target strength, that are uncertain and could cause *q* to be greater than 1.0, it is also true that the survey misses some portion of the sardine population, notably inshore of the survey area. In order to explore the sensitivity of the model to *q*, the CPSSC requested a model run with *q* fixed at 1.0 (Table 1; Figure 1).

2. Recent Catches of Northern Subpopulation of Pacific Sardine
   Catch in the Ensenada (ENS) area of Mexico is apportioned to the NSP and the SSP based on the location of the port of landing and the oceanography at the time, indicating the likely geographic boundary between the two stocks. However, evidence suggests that vessels often fish far south of the northern Mexican ports, and therefore the partitioning by location of port of landing may not be correct. The very high exploitation rates estimated for the ENS fleets in the past two years (23-35 percent) are ten times the mean rates during 2005-2014 (2.8 percent; 2015 and 2016 had 0.0 percent exploitation rates). In addition, in forecasts, the 2019 and 2020 catches are assumed equal to those estimated for 2018. The CPSSC requested a run with estimated catches in ENS from 2017 and 2018 (and in forecasts) multiplied by 0.1, to reflect exploitation rates more consistent with those estimated in the recent past. Results of a run with 2017/2018 catches in the MexCal fleet multiplied by 0.1 (which achieves the aim of the sensitivity examination, since over 98 percent of estimated NSP landings by the MexCal fleet were from ENS in both 2017 and 2018) are shown in Table 1 and Figure 1.

Conclusion

The SSC CPSSC agreed that the 2019 update to the 2017 sardine assessment satisfies the Terms of Reference for Update Assessments. The results are consistent with the previous assessment and 2018 update given the new data, and hence represent the best scientific information available for management of the northern subpopulation of Pacific sardine. The biomass estimate and management quantities for this model are shown in Table 15 of the assessment document. The SSC CPSSC recommends endorsing the 2019/20 Pacific sardine OFL of 5,816 mt in that table. If the assessment is considered to be a category 1 assessment, a sigma of 0.57 should be used to calculate the ABC buffer because the model-estimated uncertainty associated with the January 2020 spawning stock biomass estimate (middle of the fishing year; sigma = 0.57) is higher than the category 1 default (sigma = 0.50).

Table AB1. Results of two sensitivities requested by the CPSSC. **Alt 2019 q=1** fixed AT survey q to 1.0. **Alt 2019 Recent Catch x 0.1** reduced estimated MexCal NSP catches in 2017, 2018 and forecasts by a factor of 0.1.

ESTIMATES	MODEL - ALT 2019	MODEL - ALT 2019 q=1	MODEL - ALT 2019 Recent Catch x 0.1
Stock-recruitment ($\ln R_0$)	13.8649	13.9622	13.8119
Stock-recruitment steepness (*h*)	0.304	0.313	0.302
Spawning stock biomass 2017 (mt)	39,848	35,612	**32,819**
Recruitment 2017 (billions of fish)	0.446	0.522	0.429
Spawning stock biomass 2018 (mt)	**28,481**	**27,532**	**31,368**
Recruitment 2018 (billions of fish)	**0.851**	**1.021**	**0.947**
Stock biomass peak (mt)	1,760,640	1,871,090	1,768,000
Stock (1+) biomass 2018 (mt)	**25,642**	**33,945**	**39,657**
Stock biomass (1+) 2019 (mt)	**27,547**	**37,727**	**51,370**

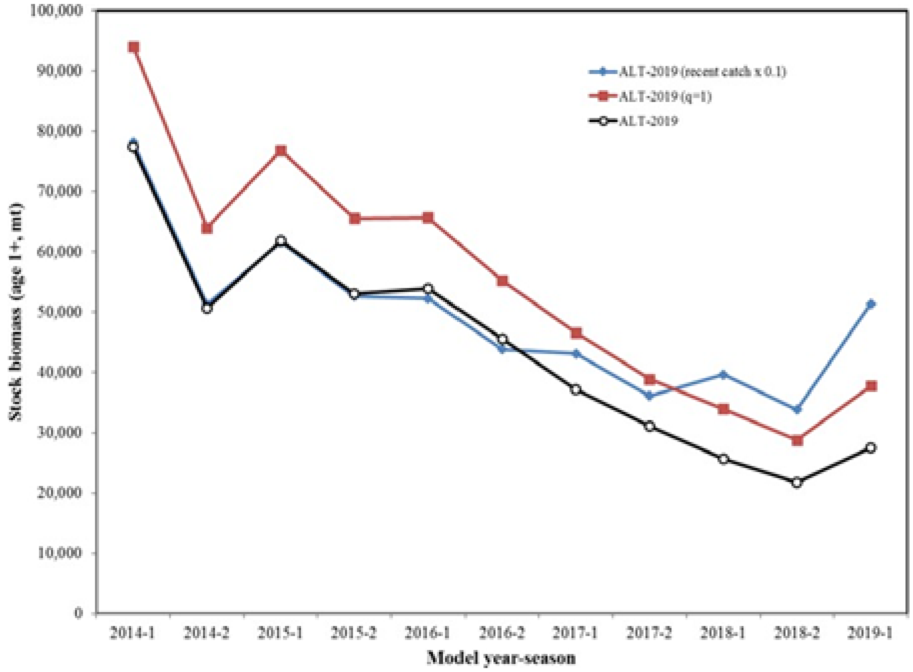


Figure AB1. Results of two sensitivities requested by the CPSSC. **Alt 2019 q=1** fixed AT survey q to 1.0. **Alt 2019 Recent Catch x 0.1** reduced estimated MexCal NSP catches in 2017, 2018 and forecasts by a factor of 0.1.

PFMC 04/11/19

Agenda Item E.3.a
Supplemental CPSMT Report 1
April 2019

COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON PACIFIC SARDINE ASSESSMENT UPDATE AND 2019-2020 HARVEST SPECIFICATIONS

The Coastal Pelagic Species Management Team (CPSMT), Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel (CPSAS) and the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) jointly received a scientific review of the draft 2019 Pacific sardine stock assessment update from Drs. Kevin Hill (National Marine Fisheries Service, NMFS) and Juan Zwolinski (NMFS). The CPSMT commends the Stock Assessment Team on their efforts. The CPSMT recommends that the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) adopt the 2019 update of the 2017 full assessment for management of the 2019-2020 sardine fishery (April 2019 Agenda Item E.3, Attachment 1). The age 1^+ biomass estimated from this assessment is projected to be 27,547 metric tons (mt) on July 1, 2019.

Similar to recent assessments, the 2019-2020 biomass estimate of 27,547 mt is below the CUTOFF value of 150,000 mt which precludes the primary directed Pacific sardine fishery. Hence, the primary directed fishery for sardine will remain closed for a fifth consecutive year. Additionally, the biomass estimate is below the 50,000 mt minimum stock size threshold (MSST) established for Pacific sardine (CPS FMP, Amendment 8). The CPSMT anticipates NMFS will issue a notice declaring the northern subpopulation of Pacific sardine overfished, which would trigger CPS FMP specific requirements. While not yet formally designated overfished, the CPSMT recommendations for the 2019-2020 sardine harvest and management specifications are consistent with the CPS FMP requirements for an overfished stock.

Biomass below MSST does not prohibit the allowance for exempted fishing permits, minor directed incidental catch in other CPS directed, live bait, recreational, and tribal fisheries. The CPS FMP does require incidental allowances be set for overfished stocks, in priority order: 1) to minimize fishing mortality on overfished stocks, and 2) to minimize discards of overfished stocks (Section 5.1.6.1).

Table 1 below presents the overfishing limit (OFL) and the range of acceptable biological catch (ABC) values based on various P* (probability of overfishing) values. The CPSMT recommends use of a P* value of 0.40, consistent with previous sardine management specifications. The SSC designated the 2019 update assessment as a Tier 2. The resulting sigma of 1.0 and a P* value of 0.40 applied to the 2019-2020 OFL of 5,816 mt produces an acceptable biological catch (ABC) of 4,514 mt.

For each year the sardine biomass has been below CUTOFF and the primary directed sardine fishery closed, the CPSMT has evaluated the potential incidental allowance needs for other CPS and non-CPS fisheries to set an ACL. Based on these evaluations and additional Council considerations, the ACLs were set below the ABCs, even though they could have been set equal to the ABC as in previous years. These ACL values, which ranged from 7,000-8,000 mt, were deemed sufficient to account for all of the differing fishery sector requirements without the need to set the ACL as high as the ABC during this time span. The CPSMT has conducted a similar evaluation and determined that, for the upcoming fishing year, CPS and non-CPS fisheries may be negatively affected by an ACL lower than the ABC, because of the reduction in the 2019-2020 ABC values.

Therefore, to afford opportunity to the CPS fisheries, including EFPs, while avoiding restricting non-CPS fisheries that may incidentally harvest sardine, as achieving the ACL could result in the prohibition of incidental take in these fisheries, the CPSMT recommends setting the ACL equal to the ABC, and an ACT of 4,000 mt for the 2019-2020 fishing year. In conjunction with setting an ACT, the CPSMT also recommends accountability measures as listed following Table 2 to prevent exceeding the ACL. Included in these accountability measures is a recommendation that the incidental landing limit of Pacific sardine in other CPS directed fisheries be set at the maximum allowed by the CPS FMP of 20 percent by weight. The CPSMT notes that all sources of catch including any EFP research set-asides, the live bait fishery, and other minimal sources of harvest, such as incidental catch in CPS and non-CPS fisheries, and minor directed fishing, will be accounted for against the ACL.

Table 3 summarizes the levels of sardine catch in CPS and non-CPS fisheries since the primary directed sardine fishery was closed. The live bait harvest numbers in this table are estimates based on voluntary logbooks, which result in a degree of management uncertainty. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife has instituted mandatory electronic fish tickets for live bait catch that will take effect at the beginning of the 2019-2020 fishing year.

Regarding the live bait fishery, the CPSMT notes that although Amendment 17 has not yet been approved, NMFS has indicated that the final decision on Amendment 17 will occur prior to the start of the next sardine fishing year which, if approved, would allow for directed live bait fishing when the stock is below the MSST. Therefore, consistent with NMFS guidance (Agenda Item E.3.a, Supplemental NMFS Report 1) and the status quo measures in place under the CPS FMP, the CPSMT includes the maximum incidental landing limit of 15 percent under the list of accountability measures.

Table AB2. Sardine harvest formula for 2019-2020.

Harvest Control Rule Formulas									
OFL = BIOMASS * E_{MSY} * DISTRIBUTION; where E_{MSY} is bounded 0.00 to 0.25									
$ABC_{P\text{-}star}$ = BIOMASS * $BUFFER_{P\text{-}star}$ * E_{MSY} * DISTRIBUTION; where E_{MSY} is bounded 0.00 to 0.25									
HG = (BIOMASS - CUTOFF) * FRACTION * DISTRIBUTION; where FRACTION is E_{MSY} bounded 0.05 to 0.20									
Harvest Formula Parameters									
BIOMASS (ages 1+, mt)	27,547								
P-star	0.45	0.40	0.35	0.30	0.25	0.20	0.15	0.10	0.05
ABC $Buffer_{(Sigma\ 0.570)}$	0.93093	0.86564	0.80296	0.74181	0.68103	0.61920	0.55417	0.48196	0.39188
ABC $Buffer_{Tier\ 2}$	0.88191	0.77620	0.68023	0.59191	0.50942	0.43101	0.35472	0.27761	0.19304
CalCOFI SST (2016-2018)	16.1123								
EMSY	0.242675								
FRACTION	0.200000								
CUTOFF (mt)	150,000								
DISTRIBUTION (U.S.)	0.87								
Harvest Control Rule Values (MT)									
OFL =	**5,816**								
$ABC_{Tier\ 1}$ =	5,414	5,034	4,670	4,314	3,961	3,601	3,223	2,803	2,279
$ABC_{Tier\ 2}$ =	5,129	4,514	3,956	3,443	2,963	2,507	2,063	1,615	1,123
HG =	**0**								

Table AB3. 2019-2020 OFL and ABC, and CPSMT recommended ACL and ACT

Biomass	27,547
OFL	5,816
P* Buffer	0.4
ABC/ACL	4,514
ACT	4,000

List of CPSMT Recommended Accountability Measures

1. If Amendment 17 is approved, directed live bait fishing for Pacific sardine will be permitted, and will also be subject to accountability measures specified under number 2 below. However, if Amendment 17 is not approved, live bait landings will be limited to

the maximum allowed by the CPS FMP of 15 percent by weight, as currently required by the CPS FMP.

2. If landings in the live bait fishery attain 2,500 mt, a per-landing limit of one mt of Pacific sardine per trip will apply to the live bait fishery.
3. If the ACT of 4,000 mt is attained, a per-trip limit of one mt of Pacific sardine applies to all CPS fisheries.
4. An incidental per-landing allowance of 2 mt of Pacific sardine in non-CPS fisheries.

Table AB4. Post-closure sardine landings (mt) by fishery for California, Oregon, and Washington.

Fishing Season	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-20195
CPS Incidental1	164.1	514.5	275.3	177.3
Non-CPS Incidental	0.6	1.1	10.3	7.2
EFP2	N/A	N/A	N/A	357
Live Bait3	2,097	1,614	1,894	1,647
Tribal	66	85	0	0
Minor Directed4	N/A	N/A	7.3	49
Total	2,328	2,217	2,187	2,237
ACL	7,000	8,000	8,000	7,000

[1]Incidental Pacific sardine limited to 40 percent landed weight in CPS fisheries
[2]Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) take (PFMC April 2018)
[3]Based on voluntary logbook submission and information from other CDFW sources
[4]Minor directed fishery allowed under CPS-FMP Amendment 16 beginning March 2018
[5]2018-2019 data are preliminary and subject to change

Agenda Item E.3.a
Supplemental CPSAS Report 1
April 2019

COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON PACIFIC SARDINE ASSESSMENT, HARVEST SPECIFICATIONS, AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES – FINAL ACTION

The Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel (CPSAS) reviewed the 2019 Sardine Assessment Update (Agenda Item E.3, Supplemental Attachment 1). CPSAS members also listened to the presentation by Dr. Kevin Hill during the Science and Statistical Committee (SSC) meeting on April 10.

The CPSAS continues to express concerns with issues raised during SSC discussion, for example:

- The coefficient of variation (CV) (73%) was far higher than the running average.
- This update assessment also continued the assumption that selectivity is uniform, meaning the acoustic trawl (AT) survey sees all the fish age 1 and older. However, assuming logistic selectivity (implying that the AT survey does not sample the entire stock) would increase the biomass estimate substantially.
- The Q in Model Alt is increasing every year (1.1 in 2017, 1.15 in 2018 and 1.17 in 2019), although Council of Independent Experts (CIE) scientists in the Acoustic Trawl Methods (ATM) Review called a Q of 1 unrealistic and recommended that AT surveys could be used as a relative index but should not be used for absolute biomass for any CPS at this time, until a management strategy evaluation (MSE) is conducted.

We note an SSC Subcommittee request for a sensitivity run, reducing abnormally high landings of assumed “northern” stock in Ensenada to 10 percent of the value, more in line with recent years, based on knowledge that fishing has been occurring south of Ensenada. The outcome raised the biomass estimate above 50,000 metric tons (mt). In contrast, the update assessment deleted about 33,000 mt of sardines observed in Southern California, on the assumption that they were “southern” stock. Including these fish in the biomass estimate would again have raised the estimate above the 50,000 mt minimum stock size threshold (MSST). These are just a few of several choices made, or not made, based on the habitat model and other assumptions, that impacted the outcome of this update assessment.

We support recommendations made by the SSC subcommittee, which were endorsed by the SSC, to be included in the next Stock Assessment Review (STAR) panel review, scheduled in 2020:

- review the basis for the habitat model and refine estimates of both the catch and biomass attributable to the Northern Subpopulation and Southern Subpopulation.
- use all available age and length composition data, including data for the live bait fishery or from CPS fisheries with incidental take of sardine sampled by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.
- A Q of one may not fully account for unsampled areas in the nearshore and the upper 10 m of the water column. Accounting for the biomass shoreward of the AT survey through a separate survey was highlighted by the 2017 AT review. This would be preferable to adjusting an estimated q to reflect the unsampled waters given uncertainty in the proportion

of biomass omitted.

- Consider alternative selectivity patterns for the AT survey.

We also recommend that the 2020 STAR Panel Review should incorporate all available indices of abundance, including the Juvenile Rockfish Survey, the hake survey, and incidental sardine landings in the whiting fishery.

At the end of their discussion, the SSC approved the 2019 assessment for use in management because it met the Terms of Reference (TOR) for an Update Assessment. We point out that the lack of flexibility in both the TOR and CPS fishery management plan (FMP) has prevented the ability to address the problems identified by the SSC. Many of the issues carried over from the 2017 STAR Panel Review and 2018 AT Methods Review have not yet been resolved. The CPSAS recommends taking another look at the TOR with the intent of addressing these concerns.

Because this update now estimates sardines below the 50,000 mt MSST, the FMP requires that the stock be declared "overfished," notwithstanding the fact that the directed fishery has been closed since 2015. A majority of the CPSAS requests the Council to review the Magnuson Act to determine if a designation of "depleted," can be applied in this situation.

In a 2015 analysis by the CPS Management Team, the 20 percent incidental catch limit required when this stock assessment is approved could impact 48 percent of Pacific mackerel landings, as much as 40-45 percent of anchovy landings, according to fishermen, and more than 20 percent of market squid landings (April 2015 Agenda Item G.1.b, Supplemental CPSMT Report).

In reality, fishermen will be forced to forego fishing on mixed schools to avoid sardine, despite the increasing nearshore abundance of sardine that fishermen have reported since 2015. In California, until recent years, the CPS fishery complex produced on average 80 percent of total statewide fishery volume, and close to 40 percent of dockside value. This volume has been essential to maintain infrastructure and jobs in many harbor communities; CPS fisheries are important contributors to California's fishing economy.

In the Pacific Northwest, sardines are taken incidentally in both CPS and non-CPS fisheries. Within the last several years, market squid landings have increased, along with bycatch in other non-CPS fisheries. The amount of sardine bycatch available to these Northwest fisheries is a concern. These fisheries are worth hundreds of millions of dollars to the local communities.

As for the live bait fishery, in 2015 marine recreational anglers spent $1.5 billion on fishing activities, adding an additional $1.3 billion of economic value and support of approximately 16,000 full and part-time jobs, according to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration statistics.

In light of the uncertainties identified in this update assessment, and the probability that the estimate is substantially underestimated, a majority of the CPSAS recommends the following management measures for the 2019-20 season:

We recommend that the Council approve a P* (probability of overfishing) of 0.4, as used in past assessments, and annual catch limit (ACL) be equal to acceptable biological catch (ABC).

-

Table AB5.

ABC (P* 0.4)	4,514 mt
ACL	4,514 mt
ACT	4,000 mt
EFPs	405 mt
Incidental in CPS fisheries at 20% by weight, Other uses, including directed live bait & small-scale fisheries and a 2-ton incidental catch allowance for non-CPS fisheries	3,595 mt (2,500 mt trigger for live bait, then 1-ton trip limit thereafter)
If 4,000 mt is attained	1 mt per trip in all fisheries up to 4,514 mt

Minority Statement

A minority of the CPSAS notes that the evidence suggests Pacific sardine are presently in a low-productivity state, in addition to being below MSST as of July 1. Consequently, harvest specifications and management measures should be set with a high level of precaution. Given the current condition of the stock, a minority of the Subpanel suggests that the ACL should be set lower than the ABC in order to account for ecosystem considerations and other Optimum Yield factors. The CPS FMP notes that "Optimum Yield will be set less than ABC to the degree required to prevent overfishing." With the sardine stock projected to be below MSST, setting the ACL less than ABC could allow the Council to take a more precautionary approach that is appropriate to the current situation.

The entire CPSAS thanks the Council for your consideration of these recommendations.

PFMC 04/12/19

Pacific Sardine Assessment, Harvest Specifications, and Management Measures – Final Action

The Council approved the 2019 Pacific sardine stock assessment, and applied the following harvest specifications and management measures, described in Supplemental CPSMT Report 1:

Table AB6: 2019 Harvest Specifications and Management Measures

Biomass	27,547 mt
Overfishing Limit (OFL)	5,816 mt
P*	0.4
Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC)	4,514 mt
Annual Catch Limit (ACL)	4,514 mt
Annual Catch Target (ACT)	4,000 mt

- A 20 percent incidental catch allowance applies to the primary directed commercial fishery
- Directed take of sardines in the live bait fishery will be allowed. However, if Amendment 17 to the CPS Fishery Management Plan is not approved before the July 1, 2019 start date, the live bait fishery will be limited to 15 percent incidental take of sardines, until Amendment 17 is approved
- A per-trip limit of 1 mt of sardines in the live bait fishery will apply if the live bait fishery attains 2,500 mt
- A per-trip limit of 1 mt of incidentally-caught sardines would apply to both the live bait and primary directed CPS fisheries, if the annual catch target of 4,000 mt is attained
- An incidental per-trip allowance of 2 mt of sardines applies to non-CPS fisheries

The biomass estimate falls below the overfished threshold, and NMFS is expected to declare the stock overfished in the near future. Once that occurs, the Council and NMFS are required to develop and implement a rebuilding plan within two years.