



Item 5f

MEMORANDUM

TO: California Ocean Protection Council
FROM: Valerie Termini
DATE: November 21, 2013
RE: Rapid Assessments for California Fisheries
ATTACHMENTS: 1) [Rapid Assessments for Selected California Fisheries](#)
2) [Guide to the Rapid Assessments](#)

The California Ocean Protection Council (OPC) is responsible for implementing AB 1217 (Monning), the California Sustainable Seafood Initiative (CSSI), which requires California to design and implement a voluntary sustainable seafood program that will highlight California’s fisheries. The California Ocean Science Trust (OST) was asked to conduct rapid assessments of 11 selected fisheries (table below) to help inform this program and ensures this program is based in the best available scientific information.

The rapid assessments synthesize existing scientific knowledge on eleven fisheries using the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) assessment tree as a framework. The eleven fisheries were selected by staff from the OPC, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW), and the California Fish and Game Commission (FGC) based on considerations such as management interest, seasonal landings, economic value and likelihood of meeting sustainable seafood certification standards.

The purpose of these rapid assessments is not to determine the sustainability of a fishery, but rather to provide a preliminary look at how much information is available about a fishery and to identify data gaps that need to be filled.

The MSC framework used in rapid assessments provides a useful tool for this and can help managers identify critical research questions and potential fishery improvement projects. All assessments (with the exception of albacore tuna) went through multiple rounds of review fishery scientists from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and NOAA’s Southwest Fisheries Science Center, as well as other experts close to the fishery. Albacore tuna was not reviewed; this fishery has already been MSC certified and a full assessment is publicly available from 2010.

Unit	Species	Gear	Region
1	Albacore tuna	Pole and line	All
2	Albacore tuna	Troll and jig	All
3	California halibut	Bottom trawl	Central
4	California halibut	Bottom trawl	Southern
5	Dungeness crab	Trap	All
6	Herring (Pacific roe)	Gill net	SF Bay
7	Market squid	Seine (Purse and Drum)	All
8	Market squid	Brail	All
9	Pink shrimp	Trawl	Northern
10	Pink shrimp	Trawl	Southern
11	Sablefish	Longline IFQ	All
12	Sablefish	Trap IFQ	All by
13	Sablefish	Trawl IFQ	All
14	Sardine, Pacific	Purse seine	All
15	Spiny lobster	Trap	All
16	Swordfish, Pacific	Harpoon	Southern
17	White seabass	Small mesh drift gillnet	All

The rapid assessments have the potential to improve the use of scientific information in marine resource management decision-making. The OPC will use the rapid assessments to help guide the next steps of the California Sustainable Seafood Initiative. More broadly, the rapid assessments are also an efficient means by which fishery managers can identify key information gaps across fisheries, and potential fishery improvement projects.

