

**SOUTHWEST FISHERIES SCIENCE CENTER**  
**FIRST QUARTER REPORT - FY 2005**  
For the Period October 1 – December 31

**Submitted by:** Roger Hewitt, Division Director, Fisheries Resources Division

**Title of accomplishment or milestone:** 55<sup>th</sup> annual CalCOFI Conference and Trinational Sardine Forum.

**Current status:** Completed within budget.

**Background information:** The California Cooperative Oceanic Fisheries Investigations (CalCOFI) is a partnership between SWFSC, the California Department of Fish and Game, and Scripps Institution of Oceanography. The organization was formed in 1949 to investigate the rapid decline of Pacific sardine off California, but now addresses a much broader range of scientific questions about the California Current ecosystem and the management of its living resources. On a rotating basis, one of the three institutions hosts an annual conference, selects the conference symposium topic, publishes data reports and a scientific journal, and maintains a publicly accessible data server ([www.calcofi.org](http://www.calcofi.org)).

In May 2000, a three-day sardine symposium was held in La Jolla, California to address the lack of information regarding Pacific sardine abundance, movement, and fishery activity. The participants recommended the formation of a Trinational Sardine Forum to implement and coordinate coast-wide collection of the data for sardine stock assessment, to exchange information, and keep abreast of trends in the fishery. The Forum has since met annually, and is attended by industry, fishery agency and academic scientists from Canada, México and the U.S.

**Purpose of Activity:** As this year's conference host, FRD chose "Pacific Sardine: Past, Present, and Future" to be the symposium. With this topic, we decided to hold the CalCOFI Conference in conjunction with the Trinational Sardine Forum for the first time, to ensure the broadest participation and exchange of information. New sardine research programs have been implemented from Mexico to Canada, and modern technologies and statistical methods are being applied using both new and old sardine data. The goals of this joint CalCOFI-Trinational Sardine Forum were to present results from the latest research and, at least for this year, bring the CalCOFI Conference back to its roots.

**Description of accomplishment and significant results:** The conference was very well-attended compared with previous years, with one hundred ten scientists from the United States, Canada, Mexico, Japan, and Germany participating. Fifteen sardine symposium talks were presented, as well as fifteen contributed talks on a variety of California Current topics. A separate poster session was held in order to highlight the nineteen poster submissions and provide ample time for discussion with the authors. Trinational sardine forum working group meetings were held on the final day of the conference, with fifty researchers and members of industry in attendance.

In addition to the scheduled talks and working group meetings, an evening data management workshop was chaired by Karen Stocks (San Diego Supercomputer Center) and Karen Baker (SIO). Approximately 25 people met to discuss the development of a contemporary information management framework for CalCOFI and how the work could contribute to PaCOOS planning.

**Significance of accomplishment:** This is the first time that the CalCOFI Conference and the Trinational Sardine Forum have been merged together. This new format allowed representatives from country, state, and regulatory agencies, the fishing industry, and academia to share their viewpoints in an open forum, and we have received very positive feedback from the participants.

**Problems:** None

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