

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR STOCK ASSESSMENT AND METHODOLOGY REVIEW PANELS

Full assessments for Pacific sardine and Pacific mackerel typically occur every third year, although since 2007, they have occurred on a two-year cycle. Full assessments trigger the Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS) Stock Assessment Review (STAR) process. If entirely new, structurally changed or significantly revised assessments are developed in a full assessment, a STAR Panel must be convened to review the assessment prior to its use for setting harvest guidelines. Full stock assessment reports are developed and distributed following each STAR Panel review. Updated assessments are conducted during interim years and involve a less formal review process.

In addition, there are new surveys that have been proposed for inclusion in the next full assessment of Pacific sardine: acoustic data from the Southwest Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC) coastwide surveys conducted during 2006, 2008, and 2010; and the Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans (CDFO) swept area trawl surveys conducted off Vancouver Island for the past decade. These new sources of information warrant a methodology review to discuss potential improvements in the survey designs and ways the data could be treated for inclusion in the 2011 full assessments. Additionally, ongoing industry-sponsored surveys and Pacific mackerel data analyses have been reviewed in the past, but would benefit from a fresh look in 2011.

It would be desirable to complete such review early in 2011 so that any recommended changes in survey design could be incorporated into the 2011 field season as well as to provide assessment teams sufficient time to respond to assessment recommendations. The last full assessment occurred in 2009.

To guide and coordinate stock assessment authors and reviewers, two draft documents have been developed by the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC), with review by Council staff and the CPSMT. These are 1) the draft (revised from the 2009 version) *Terms of Reference for a Coastal Pelagic Species Stock Assessment Review Process* (Agenda Item J.1.a, Attachment 1); and 2) the draft *Terms of Reference for Coastal Pelagic Species Stock Assessment Methodology Review* (Agenda Item J.1.a, Attachment 2).

The Council is scheduled to review and approve a public review draft of the CPS Terms of Reference at its September 2010 meeting, and consider adopting a final version at the November 2010 meeting.

Council Action:

Approve for Public Review the Terms of Reference for Stock Assessment and Methodology Review Panels.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item J.1.a, Attachment 1: Draft Terms of Reference for a Coastal Pelagic Species Stock Assessment Review Process.
2. Agenda Item J.1.a, Attachment 2: Draft Terms of Reference for Coastal Pelagic Species Stock Assessment Methodology Review.
3. Agenda Item J.1.b, Supplemental CPSMT Report.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
- b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
- c. Public Comment
- d. **Council Action:** Approve for Public Review the Terms of Reference for Stock Assessment and Methodology Review Panels

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