

METHODOLOGY REVIEW PROCESS COUNCIL OPERATING PROCEDURE

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) is contemplating a new Council Operating Procedure (COP 25) that formalizes the process and schedule for methodology reviews that inform groundfish management decision-making. Council staff drafted COP 25 (Attachment 1) using COP 15, Salmon Estimation Methodology Updates and Review, as a template. Unlike the salmon methodology review process that serves an annual process, the draft COP 25 synchronizes the groundfish methodology review process with the biennial groundfish management process. The focus of COP 25 is on the schedule for groundfish methodology reviews with a goal to complete all methodology reviews before the Council begins the biennial specifications decision-making process in September during odd years. Other details governing the groundfish methodology process, such as the roles and responsibilities of participants and the critical elements of methodology review panel reports are outlined in the Terms of Reference for the Methodology Review Process for Groundfish and Coastal Pelagic Species.

The Council should consider the advice of the Scientific and Statistical Committee and the Groundfish Management Team, as well as other advisors and the public before considering the adoption of COP 25. Final adoption of COP 25, if the Council decides to advance consideration of this COP, is scheduled for the April, 2015 meeting.

Council Action:

Consider establishing a process and schedule for groundfish methodology reviews as a Council Operating Procedure.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item J.6.a, Attachment 1: Proposed Draft of Council Operating Procedure 25.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
- b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
- c. Public Comment
- d. **Council Action:** Consider Establishing a Process and Schedule for Groundfish Methodology Reviews as a Council Operating Procedure

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PFMC
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